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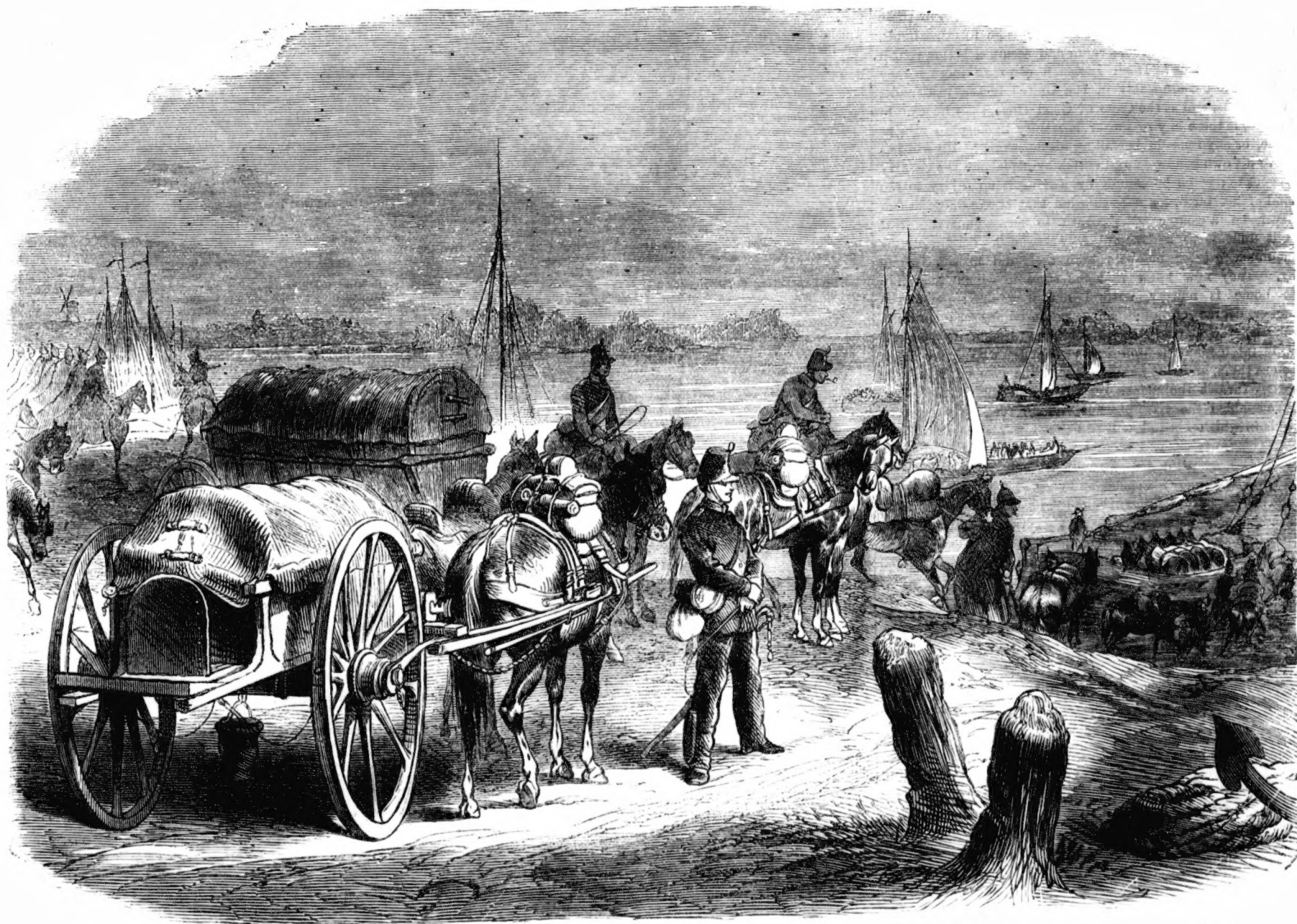
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IRISH DISTRESS AND EMIGRATION.

It will be a relief, and perhaps not unprofitable, to turn for one week from the contemplation of the troubled aspect of foreign politics to a subject of which a great deal has been said lately, and which formed a prominent topic in the debate on the Address at the opening of Parliament. We mean the distress said to exist in Ireland and the stream of emigration which has for a considerable time past been flowing from that country. Irish distress, unhappily, is no new topic. For the cry of suffering proceeding from that portion of her Majesty's dominions there has long been only too good cause. Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the reason why it is so, there can be no dispute as to the fact that the Irish people are suffering and have long been suffering. The questions for consideration are, whether the evils under which the Irish labour are inevitable, and, if not, what means can be devised to effect a cure of this seemingly chronic disorder in the body politic. Mr. Whiteside and Sir Robert Peel differ as to the degree of the prevalent distress, the former asserting that it is at this moment great and increasing, and the latter maintaining that the actual extent of the evil is much exaggerated, and that, on the whole, the condition of the Irish people is improving. Both gentlemen are probably to some extent right, and both probably to a certain degree wrong. As we have said, Irish distress is no new theme. Does anybody recollect a time when Ireland was represented by her advocates as happy and prosperous? We are aware that certain enthu-

siastic Hibernians aver that before the English set foot on the island, Ireland was a great, a free, a happy, a prosperous, and an enlightened land. But that period, if it ever existed, is too remote from the present to have any bearing on the actual state of the country now. There are others who maintain that English legislation has systematically destroyed all the industries carried on in Ireland. That may be admitted to have been partially true once, without at all affecting the question under consideration at present. If it be the fact, as asserted by Mr. Whiteside and other friends of Ireland, that she is every day becoming poorer, one of two conclusions is inevitable—either that former legislation did not injure the industry of the country, or that the causes of her suffering must be sought for elsewhere than in acts of the British Parliament. Apart from the anomaly of the State Church—of the "Church of England in Ireland" not being the Church of the Irish people—under what special disability does Ireland now labour? What taxes does she pay that are not also levied in England and Scotland? What fiscal laws press upon her that are not equally felt by the other two divisions of the kingdom? None, that we are aware of. Then why should Ireland be poor when the rest of the country is flourishing? Why should she retrograde while England and Scotland progress in material prosperity? She has not been affected, directly, by the cotton famine, which has done so much mischief in Lancashire and Lanarkshire. On the contrary, that very famine has tended still further to develop the manufacture of her principal textile fabric—linen. We might go further,

and ask how it happens that one province of Ireland—Ulster—is prosperous and uncomplaining, while the other three are alleged to be poor, and daily becoming poorer? It cannot be the climate that produces this deterioration and disparity; for the climate of Ireland is much the same now as it always was, and certainly wet and humidity are common to the north as well as to the south and west of the island. The difference of race and of religion we believe to have much—perhaps all—to do with the different state of things we find in Ulster, as compared with Connaught and Munster. The great bulk of the people in the northern province are of Scottish extraction and of the Protestant religion, and are accustomed to rely on their own energies, and not upon the aid of others; whereas the people of the other provinces are in the habit of looking to Government and other extraneous influences to do for them what they should do for themselves, as they are accustomed to take their religious belief implicitly from the dictation of their clergy. People unused to think for themselves are ill qualified to work for themselves; and, as this is the case with the Roman Catholics of Ireland, we need not wonder at the supineness and want of energy they exhibit. Besides, Ireland is passing through a period of transition. Previously to the repeal of the corn laws, the cultivation of cereals, for which the country is *not* suited, was pursued in preference to the rearing of cattle and sheep, for which it eminently *is* adapted. Again, the pig and butter trade of Ireland has been almost superseded by importations



THE WAR IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.—PRUSSIAN TROOPS CROSSING THE SCHLEI.—(FROM A SKETCH BY A. BECK.)—SEE PAGE 100.

from America and elsewhere, and the Irish farmer seems slow to adapt himself to circumstances, and to substitute the production of beef and mutton for wheat and bacon, both of which can be bought cheaper elsewhere. Mr. Whiteside tells us that the raising of the duty on whisky and the high price of rags have seriously affected the distilling and paper-making trades of Ireland. This may be true; but, if so, these are disadvantages under which the paper-makers of England and the distillers of Scotland labour equally with their brethren in Ireland. That capitalists do not settle in Ireland and that Irish landlords do not care to spend much of their time there, is partly the fault and partly the misfortune of her people: it is their fault, because they persist in making life unsafe and maintain an unrelenting war against all who attempt to introduce improvements or to change the existing state of things; and it is their misfortune that the superabundant rain which falls in their country makes it undesirable as a residence for the mere pleasure-seeker and money-spender. These are evils which no legislation can affect; and one of them it rests with the Irish people themselves to remove.

In fact, the regeneration and improvement of Ireland must be accomplished by Irishmen. They must learn to rely more upon their own efforts, and to trust less to others; they must adapt themselves to circumstances, and follow those industries and cultivate those products for which their climate and soil are fitted; they must recognise the fact that order, energy, and thrift are the great promoters of national, as they are of individual, prosperity; and they must make it safe for strangers to settle and introduce improvements among them. In this last respect we are glad to say that there has of late years been a marked improvement. We hear much less now of agrarian outrages than we were wont to do; but they are much too numerous still. When the other conditions we have pointed out are fulfilled, we believe we shall hear little of Irish distress. The movement for extending the cultivation of flax to other districts besides the north is one in the right direction, and to which we wish every success. We hope soon to see others of a like nature originated.

As to the emigration of the people, we do not see that it is either difficult to understand or much to be regretted. The remuneration of labour in Ireland is extremely low, much too low to enable the labourer to live in anything approaching to comfort. This, of course, arises from the fact that there are more labourers in the country than can, in existing circumstances, be profitably employed; in other words, that there are more servants wanting masters than there are masters wanting servants. Were it otherwise, wages would very speedily rise; and that a superfluity of labour should be in the market now—perhaps more even than in former times, though we believe it was always so in Ireland—is accounted for by the transitional state of things already referred to. A pastoral country needs much fewer labourers than a cultivated one; and, till the supply of and demand for labour in Ireland become better balanced, wages will always be low. In these circumstances, why should not the people go to other lands, where they will be of more value and secure a better return for their exertions? If an Irishman can earn more money and live more comfortably in the United States, in Canada, in Australia, and at the Cape of Good Hope, than he can in Ireland, is there any reason or humanity in keeping him at home, or any sense in bewailing his departure? He will improve his own condition and enrich by his labour the country he goes to; while he cannot by leaving it do injury to the land of his birth, for a population that is unprofitable can never be a source of strength to any country. Nor is it difficult to understand why Irishmen emigrate now in much greater numbers than they did in times gone by. They now know that the state in which they live at home is neither natural nor inevitable; and the higher degree of intelligence produced by the national schools, the spread of information through newspapers, and intercommunication with friends who have gone before them, and who not only inspire the wish, but to a large extent furnish the means for those left behind to follow, have enabled the Irish peasant to learn that there are other lands in which his toil will be better rewarded, his home be more comfortable, and all about him more happy than at home, and, knowing this, he will not stay there. For our part, we wish him God speed, and trust that, whether he goes to America or to our own colonies, he will be successful in carving out a happier career and securing for himself and family greater comfort and pleasure than Ireland seems, for the present at least, capable of offering him.

A TRAGEDY IN FRANCE.—LOVE AND SUICIDE.—The town of Evreux (Eure) has just been the scene of a tragical event which has caused great excitement among the population. Early one morning the bodies of a man and a young woman were found lying close together on a piece of waste ground near the gasworks. The young woman's head was nearly severed from the body, and the man had evidently shot himself with a pistol, which, as well as a razor, lay beside him. The deceased was soon identified as a maid-servant named Drouin, lately living with a family at Evreux, and a labourer, named Merkel, residing in a neighbouring village. The circumstances which led to this catastrophe are as follow:—Merkel was a native of Bohemia, and had served in the Austrian army in 1859, when he was taken prisoner and sent to France. He was so well pleased with his position as farm servant at Boisset-les-Prévanches that when peace was concluded he refused to return home. Some few weeks since he made offers of marriage to the young woman, and was accepted both by herself and her parents; but when he applied to the Austrian Embassy to obtain the certificates required by the French laws he was apprised that by staying in France he had become a deserter, and that no certificates could be given him till he had surrendered and stood his trial by court-martial. As soon as the girl's parents were informed of this they told Merkel that, as marriage was impossible under the circumstances, he must cease visiting their daughter. This decision appears to have driven him mad, for he immediately adopted the fatal resolution of destroying both the girl and himself.

A FRENCH CANADIAN LANDOWNER died suddenly, to all appearances, a short time ago, and was taken to the church for interment. As the service was proceeding noises were heard coming from the coffin. The lid was taken off, and the man was found to be alive. On the following day he was able to be about.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There is a rumour in Paris that the Emperor is about to discontinue his expectant policy, and that an important change is to be made in the Ministry. There is a rumour, too, that negotiations for a congress will probably be entered on afresh. Meanwhile the policy of our Government on the Dano-German war is commented on by the Parisians and their press, and the most serious complications are looked for.

It is announced that M. Corta, a deputy of the Corps Législatif, has left Paris for Mexico, to collect information requisite for the introduction of financial reforms in that country.

SAXONY.

In the sitting of the Upper House of the Saxon Diet, on the 5th inst., Baron von Beust declared that a reconciliation between the majority in the Federal Diet and Austria and Prussia was impossible, so long as the latter Powers uphold the London protocol.

TURKEY.

In consequence of the excitement in the Principalities, Russia and Austria, fearing for Poland and Hungary, are putting a strong pressure upon Turkey to send an army of occupation to the Principalities.

THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

Private letters from Warsaw state that a man named Fawski was recently arrested in the Polish capital, and that his arrest led to important disclosures, in consequence of which 1000 persons have already been made prisoners in Warsaw and the provinces. It is stated that the secret papers of the National Government have all fallen into the hands of the Russians, and that several important personages in Poland and abroad have been thereby seriously compromised.

A circular has been addressed by General Berg to the military commanders, ordering that insurgents voluntarily surrendering with their arms shall be permitted to retain their liberty. Those who surrender without arms shall be set free on producing a certificate of legitimation, their future good behaviour being guaranteed by the authorities of their respective villages. Insurgents failing to comply with either condition are to be transported until the restoration of order.

The *Moscow News* has the following:—"Spring is fast approaching, and with that season the revolutionists are about to make fresh arrangements for continuing the struggle. Those preparations have been even already commenced, not only in Galicia and at Cracow, but under the eyes of the military chief of the district of Warsaw, and within twelve miles of that capital. Bands are being formed at the very gates of Warsaw, and the revolutionists go so far as to entice Russian soldiers into their ranks."

CHINA AND JAPAN.

From China we learn that the Imperialists were still gaining ground; and from Japan, that Prince Satsuma has paid the indemnity and made certain concessions to the British Government.

NEW ZEALAND.

A despatch received at the Foreign Office from New Zealand states that, on the 20th of November, General Cameron, with 1000 men and a naval brigade, attacked the natives on the bank of the River Waikato, at Rangiriri. The engagement lasted eleven hours, and ended in the natives being driven from their position with considerable loss. The British had four officers killed, eleven wounded; thirty-seven men killed and eighty wounded.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

GENERAL NEWS.

FIGHTING has again begun in Tennessee. General Longstreet is said to have been reinforced to the extent of 20,000 men, and that his cavalry was within four miles of Knoxville, where something very like a panic is reported to prevail. A curious correspondence had taken place between General Foster and General Longstreet. The latter complained that President Lincoln's amnesty proclamation had been circulated among his troops, and said if the object of the Government were peace the better plan would have been to forward communications of the kind through him. General Foster replied, acknowledging that there had been some lack of courtesy, and inclosing twenty handbills containing the proclamation, which he relied on General Longstreet to publish.

Chattanooga despatches report that General Johnston had fallen back from Dalton. The Confederate pickets were at Kingston, forty miles south of Dalton, to cover the retreat. There were no Confederates to be found within forty-five miles of Chattanooga.

Guerrilla General Morgan had arrived at Atlanta to organise cavalry to cut off the communication between Chattanooga and Knoxville, or to make a raid into Kentucky. He made a speech declaring that the Federals must evacuate Chattanooga.

Washington despatches assert that a mutiny had occurred in Lee's army; two regiments endeavoured to desert, but failed.

Advices received from Charleston to the 21st state that the obstructions between Forts Sumter and Moultrie are entirely gone. The only impediments to the advance of the Federal fleet are said to be those extending from James Island to the middle ground. The bombardment of the city was still going on.

Advices from the South state that the Mississippi is blockaded at Granville and Milliken's Bend by Confederate batteries. Very few transports go down.

An election of State officers and members of the State Legislature had been ordered at Arkansas. Slavery had been prohibited in that State. A convention to form a new State Constitution was to assemble at New Orleans on the 22nd of February.

Senator Hale had urged, in the Federal Congress, the appointment of a committee to investigate the affairs of the navy department, and proved statistically that the United States were called upon to spend this year, for the navy, more than the combined annual naval expenses of all the European Powers, excluding Denmark and Italy, and forty millions more than the naval expenses of France and England during the three years and five months of the Crimean War.

The German portion of the Republican party was said to be opposed to President Lincoln's re-nomination.

PROSPECTS OF THE SOUTH.

Thus far it cannot be pretended that any of the exceptional trials and hardships with which the South has this winter been threatened have begun to overtake Richmond. It is the universal remark that provisions of all kinds are better and more plentiful this winter than last. It is especially impossible not to be struck with the abundance of deer which hang daily at the doors of the restaurants and eating-houses, while there is an affluence of wild and tame turkeys, of partridges, ducks, fish, and oysters, which laugh all threats of starvation to scorn. Perhaps there never yet was a country which can so little be dragged into terms by hunger as these magnificent Southern States, teeming with the richest gifts of river and forest, sparsely occupied by a scanty population and warmed by a bountiful and enriching sun. There is hardly a foot of the lower portions of the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, or James Rivers but is paved with oysters, and the same can be said of Mobile Bay (more than thirty miles long), of the rivers about Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah, and of the inlets of Florida and Texas. There are two, and only two, manifest perplexities with which the South has to cope—an unreasonably depreciated currency and great deficiency in railroad transport. We are promised an early improvement in the former by the Confederate Congress—a body about whose ability to execute a colossal task it is hard to be sanguine; the latter is obviously all but irremediable so long as the war lasts. But it must be patent to Englishmen that by neither can the South ever be coerced into accepting terms against its will. History exhibits many instances of countries wrestling in the death throes of

defensive warfare under vastly severer financial pressure than the South can ever experience; but where can the first instance be cited of a country so struggling and succumbing from impecuniosity? In regard to facilities of railroad transport, they have hitherto been found sufficient for Southern resistance, and they will this year be rather enhanced than diminished by the link which will connect Danville, in Virginia, with Greensborough, in North Carolina, and which will be opened for traffic in a couple of months from this time.—*Letter from Richmond.*

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE AS TO THE ALABAMA.

On Tuesday morning was published a batch of correspondence with the United States' Government, which consists of affidavits and memorials relating to the depredations of the Alabama and the Florida, despatches from Mr. Adams to Earl Russell, quoting each of these as claims for indemnity, and adding them "to others of the same kind which it has been my painful duty to present to your Lordship heretofore;" and of replies from Earl Russell, disclaiming all responsibility in regard to the proceedings of the Alabama or of any other Confederate cruiser.

In the course of a despatch, dated March 27, last year, Earl Russell, describing to Lord Lyons an interview with Mr. Adams, after stating that the American Ambassador had observed that the President might probably find no better resource than the issue of letters of marque, proceeds:—

I said I would at once suggest a better measure. Mr. Seward had said to Lord Lyons that the crews of privateers had this advantage—that they reaped the whole benefit of the prizes they took, whereas the crews of men-of-war were entitled to only half the value of the prizes they took. Let the President, I said, offer a higher reward for the capture of the Alabama and Oreto to the crews of men-of-war than even the entire value of those vessels. Let him offer double their value as a gratuity, and thus confine his action to officers and men of the United States navy, over whom he could keep a control, and who were amenable to the laws which govern an honourable profession. But what could Mr. Adams ask of the British Government? What was his proposal? Mr. Adams said there was one thing which might be easily done. It was supposed the British Government were indifferent to these notorious violations of their own laws. Let them declare their condemnation of all such infractions of law. With respect to the law itself, Mr. Adams said either it was sufficient for the purposes of neutrality, and then let the British Government apply to Parliament to amend it. I said that the Cabinet were of opinion that the law was sufficient; but that legal evidence could not always be procured. That the British Government had done everything in its power to execute the law; but I admitted that the cases of the Alabama and Oreto were a scandal, and in some degree a reproach to our laws. Still, I said, it was my belief that if all the assistance given to the Federals by British subjects and British munitions of war were weighed against similar aid given to the Confederates, the balance would be greatly in favour of the Federals. Mr. Adams totally denied this proposition. But above all, he said, there is a manifest conspiracy in this country, of which the Confederate loan is an additional proof, to produce a state of exasperation in America, and thus bring on a war with Great Britain with a view to aid the Confederate cause and secure a monopoly of the trade of the Southern States, whose independence these conspirators hope to establish by these illegal and unjust measures. He had worked to the best of his power for peace, but it had become a most difficult task. Mr. Adams fully deserves the character of having always laboured for peace between our two nations, nor, I trust, will his efforts and those of the two Governments fail of success.

On the 14th of September Earl Russell writes to Mr. Adams:—

When the United States' Government assumes to hold the Government of Great Britain responsible for the captures made by vessels which may be fitted out as vessels of war in a foreign port because such vessels were originally built in a British port, I have to observe that such pretensions are entirely at variance with the principles of international law and with the decisions of American Courts of the highest authority; and I have only, in conclusion, to express my hope that you may not be instructed again to put forward claims which her Majesty's Government cannot admit to be founded on any grounds of law or justice.

And again, on the 26th of October:—

Foreign Office, Oct. 26, 1863.—Sir,—I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 23rd inst. In that letter you inform me that you are instructed to say that the Government of the United States must continue to insist that Great Britain has made itself responsible for the damages which the citizens of the United States sustain by the depredations of the vessel called the Alabama. But towards the conclusion of your letter you state that the Government of the United States are not disposed to act dogmatically, or in a spirit of litigation; that they desire to maintain amity as well as peace; that they fully comprehend how unavoidably reciprocal grievances must spring up from the divergence of the policy of the two countries in regard to the present insurrection. You add, further on, that the United States frankly confess themselves unwilling to regard the present hour as the most favourable to a calm and candid examination by either party of the facts or the principles involved in cases like the one now in question. With this declaration her Majesty's Government may well be content to await the time when a calm and candid examination of the facts and principles involved in the case of the Alabama may, in the opinion of the Government of the United States, usefully be undertaken. In the mean time, I must request you to believe that the principle contended for by her Majesty's Government is not that of commissioning, equipping, and manning vessels in our ports to cruise against either of the belligerent parties—a principle which was so justly and unequivocally condemned by the President of the United States in 1793, as recorded by Mr. Jefferson in his letter to Mr. Hammond of the 13th of May of that year. But the British Government must decline to be responsible for the acts of parties who fit out a seeming merchant-ship, send her to a port or to waters far from the jurisdiction of British Courts, and there commission, equip, and man her as a vessel of war. Her Majesty's Government fear that, if an admitted principle were thus made elastic to suit a particular case, the trade of ship-building, in which our people excel, and which is to great numbers of them a source of honest livelihood, would be seriously embarrassed and impeded. I may add that it appears strange that, notwithstanding the large and powerful naval force possessed by the Government of the United States, no efficient measures have been taken by that Government to capture the Alabama. On our part, I must declare that to perform the duties of neutrality fairly and impartially, and at the same time to maintain the spirit of British law and protect the lawful industry of the Queen's subjects, is the object of her Majesty's Government; and they trust that the Government of the United States will recognise their earnest desire to preserve, in the difficult circumstances of the present time, the relations of amity between the two nations.

On the 29th of the same month the Foreign Minister informed Mr. Adams that the proceedings of the Alabama at the Cape had been under the consideration of the Government, and the following conclusions had been adopted by them:—

1. That her Majesty's Government are satisfied by the concurrent testimony of the colonial and naval authorities at the Cape that at the time of capture the Sea Breeze was considerably more than three miles distant from the nearest land. 2. That, as regards the character of the Alabama, that vessel is entitled to be treated as a ship of war belonging to a belligerent Power, and that neither the Governor nor any other British authority at the Cape was entitled to exercise any jurisdiction over her. 3. That, as regards the Tuscaloosa, although her Majesty's Government would have approved the British authorities at the Cape if they had adopted towards that vessel a course different from that which was adopted, yet the question as to the manner in which a vessel, under such circumstances, should, according to the tenour of her Majesty's orders, be dealt with, was one not altogether free from uncertainty. Nevertheless, instructions will be sent to the British authorities at the Cape for their guidance in the event of a similar case occurring hereafter; and her Majesty's Government hope that, under those instructions, nothing will for the future happen to admit of a question being raised as to her Majesty's orders having been strictly carried out. Copies of the reports from the colonial and naval authorities on the matters in question will be sent to her Majesty's Minister at Washington, who will thereby be enabled to give to the Government of the United States any further explanation they may desire to obtain on the subject.

MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN AUSTRIAN ITALY.—A letter from Mantua mentions the following:—"General Alfred Kenikstein, recently appointed to the command of the 5th corps-d'armée, in the place of Count Stadion, on assuming his command, three days since, made a speech to the officers in which he advised them to keep themselves in a state of constant readiness for action, as, under present circumstances, Austria might probably be attacked on two sides at once. The General added that the Austrian army was now much stronger and better organised than in 1859; and that, in case of grave events, victory could not be doubtful."

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.—The Estates Committee of the Ecclesiastical Commission have put forth a report, from which we gather that they propose to make grants which will be represented by a capital sum of £700,000. Among these grants is one to augment by a capital sum of £100,000 in public patronage where the population amounts to 8000, and to assist in doing as much for all benefices in private patronage, provided half the augmentation be supplied from non-ecclesiastical sources. On the same arrangement they propose to augment the livings of all district churches with a like population to £200 a year.

INSANE PRISONERS.

THE bill introduced into the House of Commons by the Home Secretary to amend the Act 3rd and 4th Vict. cap. 64, for making further provisions for the confinement and maintenance of insane prisoners, has been printed. It repeals the first section of the Act, and then provides (sec. 2) as follows:—"If any person while imprisoned in any prison or other place of confinement under the sentence of death, transportation, penal servitude, or imprisonment, or under a charge of any offences, or for not finding bail for good behaviour or to keep the peace, or to answer a criminal charge, or in consequence of any summary conviction or order by any justice or justices of the peace, or under any other civil process, shall appear to be insane, it shall be lawful, if such person is confined in a prison to which visiting justices are appointed, for two or more of the visiting justices of such prison, or if such person is in any other place of confinement for two or more justices of the peace of the county, city, borough, or place in which such place of confinement is situated, and such visiting or other justices are hereby required to call to their assistance two physicians or surgeons, or one physician and one surgeon, duly registered as such respectively under the provisions of an Act passed in the Session of the 21st and 22nd years of her Majesty's reign, chapter 90, and to be selected by them for that purpose, and to inquire with their aid as to the insanity of such person; and if it shall be duly certified by such justices, or any two of them, and such physicians or surgeons, or such physician and surgeon, that such person is insane, one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State may, upon receipt of such certificate, if he shall think fit, direct by warrant under his hand that such person shall be removed to such lunatic asylum, or other proper receptacle for insane persons, as the said Secretary of State may judge proper and appoint; and every person so removed under this Act, or already removed and in custody under any former Act relating to insane prisoners not under civil process, shall remain in confinement in such asylum or other proper receptacle as aforesaid, or in any other lunatic asylum or other proper receptacle to which such person may be removed by any like warrant which the Secretary of State is hereby empowered to issue, if he shall think fit, until it shall be duly certified to the said Secretary of State by two physicians or surgeons, or one physician and one surgeon, duly registered as aforesaid, that such person is sane; and upon the receipt of such last-mentioned certificate the said Secretary of State is hereby authorised to issue a warrant under his hand directing, if the period of imprisonment or custody of such person shall have expired, that he or she shall be discharged; or if such person shall still remain subject to be continued in custody, that he or she shall be removed to any prison or other place of confinement in which he or she may be lawfully confined: Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to repeal the 38th section of the Act of the 16th and 17th years of her Majesty's reign, chapter 96, or any part thereof." All the provisions of the first-mentioned Act which are not repealed, and all the provisions of an Act passed in the Session of the 23rd and 24th years of her Majesty's reign, intitled "An Act to make better Provision for the Custody and Care of Criminal Lunatics," are to apply to lunatics removed under this Act in all respects as if they had been removed under the section of the first-mentioned Act which is repealed. It is to extend to England and Wales only.

IRELAND.

A BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE.—Susannah Quinton is a minor, who has lived with her uncle, who is also her guardian, near Tempo, in the county of Limerick. She is entitled to a fortune of £1000. She met at some entertainment a young man named Peterson, an attorney's clerk at Enniskillen, whose mother, a widow, with whom he lives, keeps a small shop in that town. An attachment grew up between them, and they agreed to get married. But the guardian peremptorily refused his consent because Peterson is a Roman Catholic, and is otherwise unsuitable, being without a penny to support a wife. But as the young lady was resolved to have this person and no other, she was made a ward of Chancery, to prevent her taking the rash step and to save her fortune. The Master of the Rolls threatened Peterson and his abettors with imprisonment if they proceeded further in the matter. In defiance of this authority, it is alleged, Peterson got a license at the registration-office by making a false declaration of the lady's age. A license was then obtained by him from the Roman Catholic Archdeacon authorising a Roman Catholic Curate to celebrate the marriage, provided the young lady was not under age. Before this was obtained she had been brought on a car by Peterson's mother to her house and kept concealed for several days. The Curate declined to marry the parties, pleading the penalties he would incur by marrying a Protestant. A strange priest was sent for to do the job, on whose face the parties pledged themselves not to look, that they might not be able to identify him in case of a prosecution. Miss Quinton was hastily baptised, the parties were married, kneeling before a priest upon whose face they did not venture to look; and, in order more effectually to secure their prize, the friends of Peterson saw that they were safely put to bed. The parties were all brought up, on Saturday last, before the Master of the Rolls, who threatened to send the whole of them to gaol; but the attachment was suspended, on an undertaking being given by the minor's solicitor that she should not see Peterson again. She refuses, however, to go home to her uncle, and is at an hotel, under the protection of her solicitor. It is alleged that the Archdeacon who authorised the Curate to celebrate the marriage was aware that it would be illegal, as the lady was a Protestant, and also that the Curate not only procured the strange priest, but was himself present, standing outside the door while the ceremony was being performed.

THE PROVINCES.

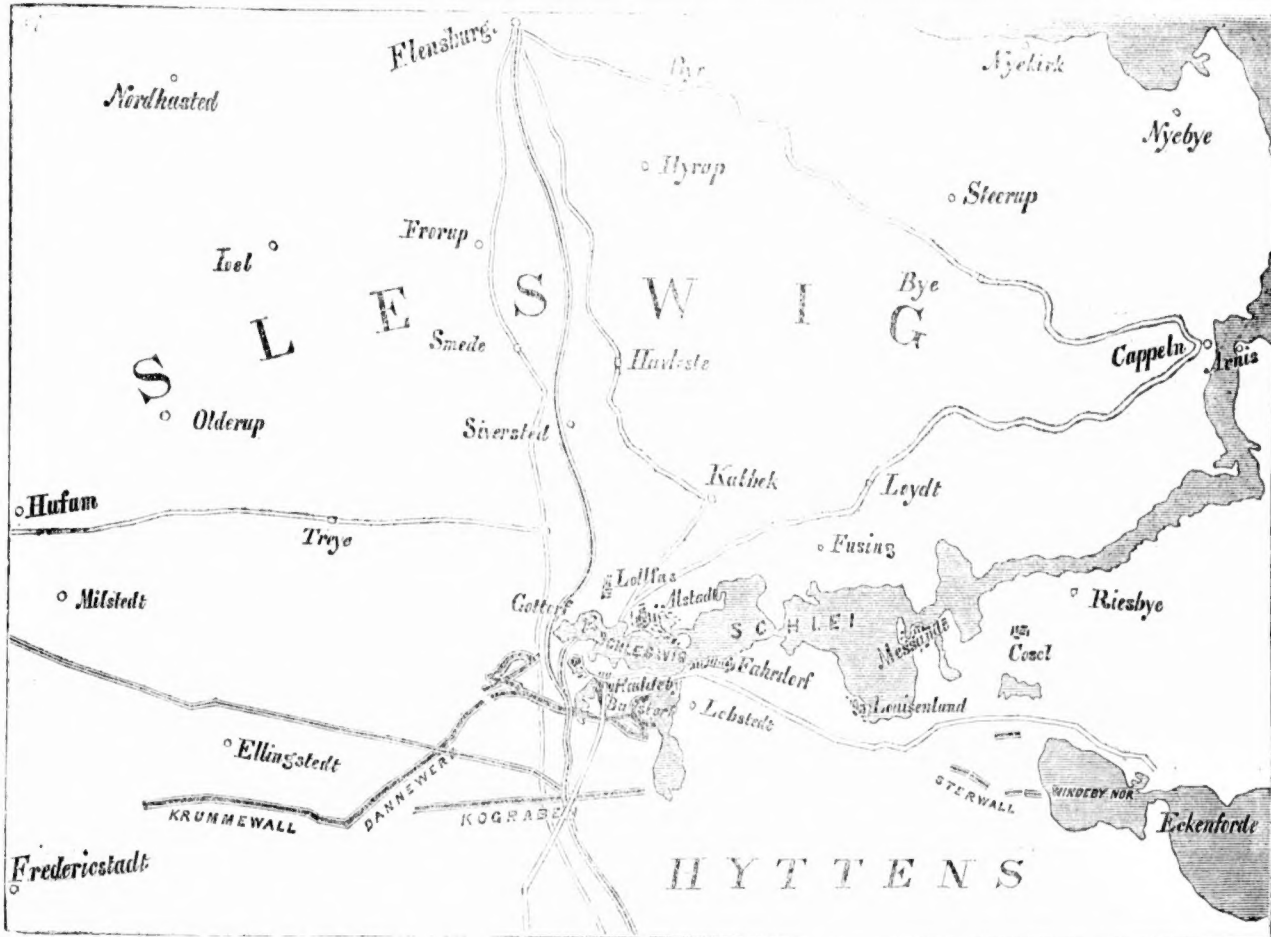
FIRE IN A POWDER-MILL.—A fire, which might have been attended with frightful consequences, took place on Saturday last at some blasting-powder mills near Plymouth. It originated in the packing-room, and at one time threatened to reach the place where the main quantity of the powder was stored. Signal was, however, made to the flag-ship in the harbour, and the boats and the engines of that vessel, together with those of the St. George, Indus, Canopus, and others, under the charge of about 800 men, were conveyed to the scene of action. The sailors in the most courageous manner entered the mills, and succeeded in removing a large quantity of the powder from the premises, and, finally, in suppressing the fire. There was one partial explosion, and two men were injured.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.—By direction of the Dean and Chapter this magnificent structure has been carefully surveyed by Mr. George Gilbert Scott, with the view to its entire restoration, both internally and externally. Certain substantial repairs essential to the security of the edifice are now in progress, towards which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England have given £10,000; but the general state of disrepair, and more particularly the safety of the tower and lofty spire, have induced the Cathedral authorities to take active measures to carry out the recommendations of the eminent Gothic architect referred to. It is estimated that an outlay of between £25,000 and £40,000, exclusive of the £10,000 voted by the Commissioners, will be required, and it has, therefore, been determined shortly to appeal to the diocese for the requisite funds.

A MINERS' UNION.—Attempts are being made in Monmouthshire to establish a miners' union, in conjunction with the Staffordshire and North of England miners. Meetings of the colliers and miners have been held at Rhymney, Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, and several other places; but the proposed union does not seem to take well in South Wales, owing, no doubt, to the fact that all previous unions have proved disastrous to the cause of the working man. Protection of the interests of the colliers is the avowed object of the society, and this is to be brought about by a weekly or monthly contribution from all the miners and colliers.

A WELSH GHOST.—Last week a lad, aged fourteen, living at Dowlais, went out into the back yard in the evening and returned almost instantly in great fright, exclaiming that he had seen his own ghost. When sufficiently recovered to give an account, he said that on opening the back door he saw himself, white and deathlike, standing in front, and he at once ran back. His friends endeavoured to joke him out of the belief, but he was not to be shaken. He sickened, and, though a healthy lad up to the date of his fright, grew worse and died.

A SEAMAN'S DAUGHTER (C. T.) has forwarded to the National Life-boat Institution £20, being the produce of her needlework.



THE WAR IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

EVACUATION OF THE DANNEBERG.

On the evening of Friday, the 3rd inst., the Prussian forces, under Prince Frederick Charles succeeded in crossing the Schlei, near Arnis, and on the following morning the Austrians advanced towards Schleswig. In consequence of these movements, in order to avoid being cut off, the Danes evacuated the Danneberg and Schleswig, and fell back towards Flensburg, leaving sixty pieces of cannon behind them. The Austrians followed, and several engagements ensued, particularly one at a place called Oversee, in which six hundred and fourteen Danish prisoners (nine officers and upwards of 500 men) were wounded, and have been brought into Schleswig. On reaching Flensburg the Germans met with a stout resistance. The inhabitants in the northern part of the city raised barricades, from behind which they fired on the Austrians, and the total loss of the latter is said to be 1100 in killed and wounded. After evacuating the city the Danish army retreated further north, pursued by the allies. It was believed, however, that the Danes would take refuge in the island of Als, and it was, indeed, reported at first that they had done so. Duke Frederick of Augustenburg was proclaimed in Schleswig immediately on the entrance of the German forces. Great indignation was caused in Copenhagen by the unexpected retreat of the Danish army, and the Commander-in-Chief, General Meza, and the chief of his Staff, were at once superseded. The King and the Cabinet are reported to have declared that they had not sanctioned the retreat, and the Rigsdag passed an address to the army announcing the energetic prosecution of the war.

It is difficult to obtain authentic information from the seat of war, as all civilians, and especially newspaper correspondents, are forbidden to come up to the front.

A proclamation, issued by Field Marshal von Wrangel on the 7th inst., announces the appointment of Baron von Zedlitz as Prussian Civil Commissioner of Schleswig; confirms provisionally the civil functionaries in their posts; declares that the German language is henceforth to be used in all branches of the administration; and, finally, prohibits any political demonstrations not in accordance with the policy pursued by the great German Powers, as well as all attempts to establish any other authority in the duchy of Schleswig.

It has been decided to raze the Danneberg, and the disarmament has already commenced. The Austrians and Prussians have divided the guns captured.

Advices from Stockholm state that popular demonstrations had taken place in that city in front of the residence of the Danish Ambassador in favour of Denmark.

SCHLESWIG ON THE ENTRANCE OF THE GERMANS.

A correspondent thus describes the appearance presented by the city of Schleswig on the entry of the German troops:—

The town itself, which looks wretched enough in winter, was decked out with banners, but I saw no further demonstration of joy at the entrance of the Germans. Possibly the inhabitants, who for weeks past have had their houses filled with Danes, and now will have Austrians and Prussians to take their places, are too tired out to be very joyful about anything. At any rate, there was none of the jubilee which the enthusiastic partisans of Schleswig-Holsteinism declared there would be. There was no sign of such a welcome as was given in Eckenforde. I did not even hear the "Schleswig-Holstein" song—wonder of wonders! for the prohibition to sing this for many years past seems to have endowed it, in the eyes of the natives, with charms which it is difficult for a stranger to appreciate.

PRUSSIAN AND AUSTRIAN POLICY.

The following is the despatch referred to in both Houses of Parliament on Tuesday evening as containing the latest declaration of the intentions of the two great German Powers. The document is in answer to a question addressed to the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin by our Ambassadors at each Court. The answers are identical, except that the Vienna note speaks of "the Imperial Government," and that from Berlin of "the Government of the King." They are both under the same date. It is, therefore, only necessary to give one reply, and we select that of Prussia:—

M. de Bismarck to Count Bernstorff.—(Communicated to Earl Russell by Count Bernstorff, Feb. 4.)

Berlin, Jan. 31, 1864.
M. le Comte.—The Government of the King, by basing on the stipulations of 1851-2 the rights which, in concert with Austria, it is proceeding to enforce upon Denmark, has by this very act recognised the principle of the integrity of the Danish monarchy as established by the transactions of 1851-2. The Government of the King, in proceeding to the occupation of Schleswig, does not intend to depart from this principle. If, however, in consequence of complications which may be brought about by the persistence of the Danish Government in its refusal to accomplish its promises of 1852, or of the armed intervention of other Powers in the Danes-German conflict, the King's Government were to find itself compelled to renounce combinations which would no longer offer a result proportionate to the sacrifices which events might impose upon the German Powers, no definitive arrangements could be made without the concurrence of the Powers who signed the Treaty of London. The British Government would then find the King's Government ready to come to an agreement with them as to the definitive arrangement of the Danes-German question. Your Excellency is requested to read and give a copy of this despatch to Earl Russell.—Receive, &c., (Signed) BISMARCK.

A telegram was received in London on Wednesday to the effect

that Austria had determined to cancel the Treaty of 1852; but official assurance has been received from Vienna that the Austrian Government does not intend in any way to depart from the basis laid down in the above despatch, and that the announcement made by the telegram referred to is not authentic.

THE AFFAIR AT MISSUNDE.

The following account of the Prussian attack on Missunde is from a correspondent who was close to the ground on which the fighting took place:—

The Danes had erected, with admirable engineering talent, no less than seven formidable earthworks to defend the approach to the Schlei. They had selected strong positions for them all; but the two most southerly ones were on the most elevated heights, and offered the greatest advantages for a resolute defence. In each is a rough but strongly constructed blockhouse, and the position not only commands the approach from the south, but the ferry and tête-de-pont on the other side of the Schlei, in the rear.

Nine batteries of Prussian artillery, of the Third or Brandenburg and Seventh or Westphalian Brigade, consisting of howitzers, field six-pounders, short twelve-pounders, and rifled guns, in all seventy-five pieces of ordnance, were by degrees drawn into the engagement, which began about eleven o'clock and lasted four hours. The fire of the Prussians was returned by the Danes with great spirit, the latter appearing to be quite up to their work; and, though they did not dismount any of the guns, did great execution on the gunners and horses, more than 150 Prussians being killed and wounded, amongst whom are several officers, one a Colonel of artillery. Whether the Prussians did right in opposing in open field an enemy entrenched behind strong earthworks, defended by guns of much heavier calibre, is beyond my province as a civilian to decide. Certain it is that they paid dearly for thus exposing their men.

In the mean time the Prussian infantry made several attempts to storm the heights, although not a single gun had been silenced; but they were received each time by such a murderous fire of shrapnel and grapeshot, and were taken in flank by the Danish rifles and infantry concealed behind hedges, that they were reluctantly compelled to abandon the attack for the present. But the conduct of the Prussians merits all praise. As if they were veterans who had been in many actions, instead of young lads smelling gunpowder for the first time, they rushed up the heights only to be repulsed again and again. But all their heroism was not sufficient to take one single intrenchment. Old Schleswig-Holstein officers who had joined the Prussians as volunteers to witness the action are unanimous in their praise of the bravery and coolness displayed by the Prussians. One man, the stock of whose musket was shattered by a ball, stooped down to exchange it with that of a fallen comrade lying beside him.

The infantry that took part in this engagement were the 15th, 24th, 35th, 53rd, and 60th Regiments, amongst which those most cut up were the Fusilier Battalion of the 15th (from Bielefeld, in Westphalia) and the first battalion of the 60th (from Wriezen, on the Oder). The latter lost seven officers, amongst whom was the commanding officer, Major von Jena, who had taken part as a volunteer in the battle of Solferino, where he was severely wounded in the shoulder. In this, his last action, a ball struck him in the breast and killed him on the spot. Lieutenant-Colonel von Francis, of the 24th Regiment, received a bullet on his right jawbone, the bullet coming out at the left side, and another in the right thigh. Count von der Groben, Lieutenant in the regiment called the "Zieten Hussars," and one of the personal Aides-de-Camp of Prince Frederick Carl, whilst riding across the ground with orders from his chief, was struck in the breast by a conical ball, and dropped from his saddle a dead man. Several of the officers had their horses killed under them.

FIGHT AT OVER-SELK.

A SMART action took place on Thursday, the 4th inst., at Over-Selk, between the Austrians under General Gablenz and the Danes. On the preceding night the Austrian head-quarters were at Great Breckendorf, a village rather more than half-way between Rendsburg and Schleswig city, upon the byroad leading to the latter place. At three o'clock on Thursday morning the Austrian brigade, under the personal leadership of General von Gablenz, commenced to advance along the whole line. They were not long before they came upon the Danes. The artillery on both sides commenced to play, and continued to fire almost without cessation the whole day. Little progress was made, however, until day-break; but as soon as the hostile armies could see each other the fighting began in deadly earnest. The country about the byroad leading to Over-Selk is of undulating surface, and completely cut up by ravines and embankments about four feet high, serving apparently in times of peace in place of hedges to divide the fields from each other. Behind these massive embankments the Danish sharpshooters lay covered, while on every knoll and eminence the Danish artillery was planted. As the Austrians advanced they were met with a galling fire from the Danes, while their own artillery apparently did little or no damage at all to the enemy. The infantry was, therefore, ordered forward to drive the Danes out of their hiding-places. The Austrian columns rushed forward with wonderful intrepidity, while bullets and every kind of missile thrown by ordnance showered amongst them. Before, however, they came up to the Danes, the latter retreated and took up a position similar to that they had just left. Here the same thing was repeated, the Danes again retreating before the Austrian storming columns. Meanwhile, the loss on the side of the latter was very great, particularly amongst the officers. The Austrians were now directly before the Königsberg, or King's-hill, an eminence a little north-west of Over-Selk, and on which the Danes had planted a considerable number of rifled guns. No sooner were the Austrians drawn up in sight of the enemy than half a dozen bombs fell almost at the same instant in the midst of the cavalry and infantry, creating for the moment great confusion. Recovering soon from this surprise, the Austrians advanced at a run, amid the hail of bullets, cartridge, and shell. A Prussian officer who witnessed the fight declares no troops ever

behaved more splendidly than did the Austrians on this occasion. After a short but desperate struggle, the Danes withdrew, leaving many of their dead and wounded in the hands of the enemy. The Danes appeared to know the *terrain* so well that it seemed as if they had measured beforehand every foot—nay, every inch—of the ground. Every shot told with fearful, almost fatal, effect. Of the wounded Austrians, the majority have been struck on the head, breast, or stomach. Not 25 per cent have received wounds in the legs. The result of the day's fighting was that at least 500 Austrians were placed *hors de combat*. As above adverted to, the loss in officers was high beyond all proportion in comparison with that of the privates. The regiment Martini, which only left Hamburg on the Sunday preceding, suffered fearfully. Of the twenty-two officers only three came out of the fight unwounded. All the rest are now either dead and buried, or lie, most of them, in the village of Over-Selk, severely wounded. One company of this regiment was entirely annihilated; not half a dozen men remain safe and sound. From the very first the Danish rides singled out the officers as their victims. This they could the more easily do as every officer was readily distinguished by the silk ribbon of black and yellow stripes thrown across his right shoulder and passing obliquely round the body. Hereafter this dangerous distinction is to be cast aside. The Austrian soldiers were so maddened at the loss of their officers that, with a small exception, no quarter was given to any of the Danish officers who fell into their hands.

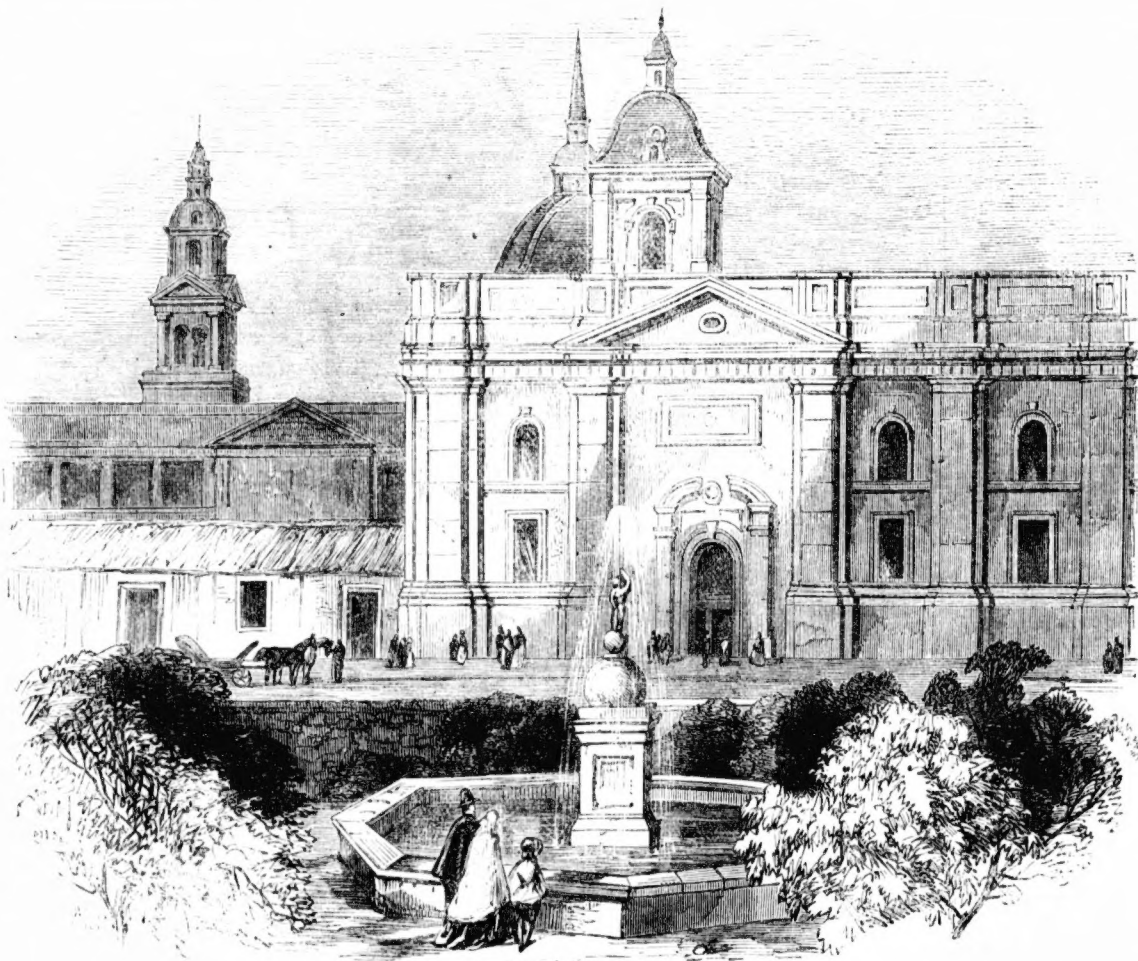
OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

We this week present our readers with several illustrations referring to the war which now occupies so large a share of public attention. Of Kiel Harbour it will be unnecessary to say anything, as we described the city and its position pretty fully in our last. Of Schleswig we have also spoken already (see ILLUSTRATED TIMES for Jan. 23, page 61), and need not recapitulate the few points of interest which the town possesses. Its antiquity and quaintness show that it has not made much progress or risen in importance during modern times. The people of the duchies are a mixture of the German and Danish races. In the southern province, Holstein, the inhabitants may be said to be all Germans, and the duchy itself has long formed a member of the German Bund. In Schleswig, however, the races are more mixed. The southern portion of that duchy has at various times been settled in by Germans from different parts of the "Fatherland," their descendants alleging that they did so under a pledge from the Danish Kings, who were likewise Dukes of Schleswig, that they would be allowed to retain their own language, laws, and customs; and the breach of this engagement on the part of Denmark is adduced as one

of the main grievances of which the German Schleswigers complain. Large numbers of Germans are likewise said to have repaired to Holstein and Schleswig as temporary labourers, tempted by the higher rate of remuneration they received there than at home. A portion of these settled permanently in the country, and thus a strong infusion of the German element became mingled with the Danish inhabitants. Further north, however, the population is nearly of purely Danish extraction; and that their sympathies point in the same direction is proved by the fact that the people of the Old Town of Flensburg, when the Danish troops retired, erected barricades in the streets, and so stoutly opposed the entrance of the Germans that they are reported to have lost no fewer than 1100 men in forcing an entry into the place. As might be expected in so mixed a population, there are Danish sympathisers in the southern portions of the country and men of German "proclivities" in the northern; but, in general terms, the divisions of the people are as we have stated. Still further north, in Jutland, the people are nearly unmixed Danes.

One of our other illustrations represents the passage of the Schlei by the Prussian troops after the evacuation of the Dannewerk,

marked contrast to the conduct of the clergy was that of the laity, especially of foreigners. Feats of the most prodigious valour and thrilling heroism were performed by many individuals on the spot. Amongst other incidents it may be noticed that Mr. Nelson, the American Minister, who was accidentally in the neighbourhood, hearing the tolling of the great bell, ordered his coachman to drive to the spot. On alighting from his carriage he rushed to the grand entrance, and arrived there just in time to witness the terrible crushing and mangling of thirty ladies by the crowd from behind. He immediately set to work, and others, incited by his example, joined him in his noble efforts. He was instrumental in saving the lives of fifty young ladies, and never deserted his post at the threshold of the doors until the roof had fallen in, when a complete shower of sparks and cinders seemed to envelope him. He was carried from the spot with his clothes smouldering and every particle of hair on his head singed to the roots. All the doors of the neighbouring houses had meanwhile been opened for the reception of the dying and the wounded. The Palace of the Chambers, the Senate, and the lobbies of the Chamber of Deputies opposite, were crowded with dying girls, whose moans rent the air. Many were laid

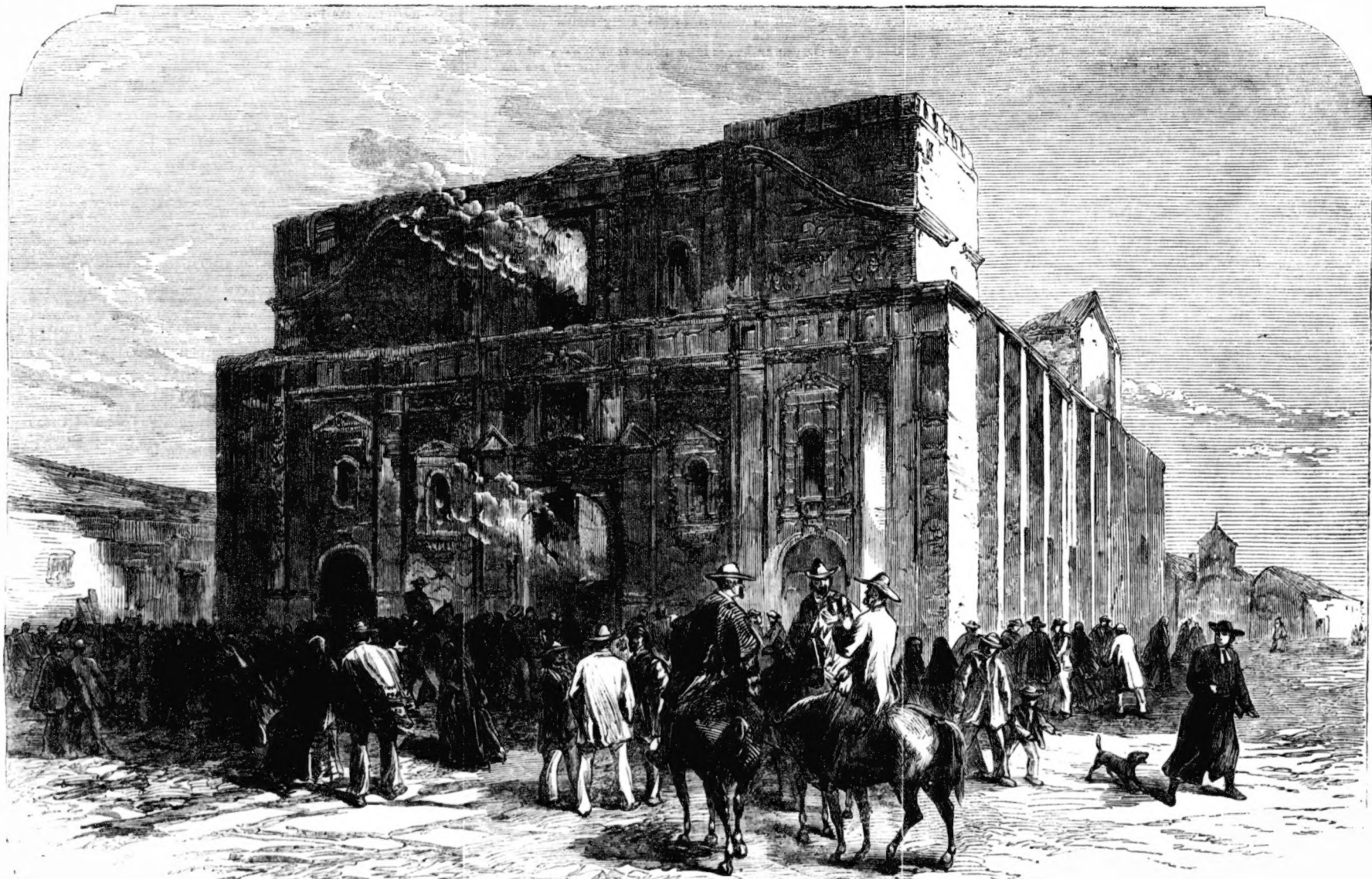


THE CHURCH OF THE COMPANIA AT SANTIAGO PREVIOUS TO ITS RECENT DESTRUCTION BY FIRE.

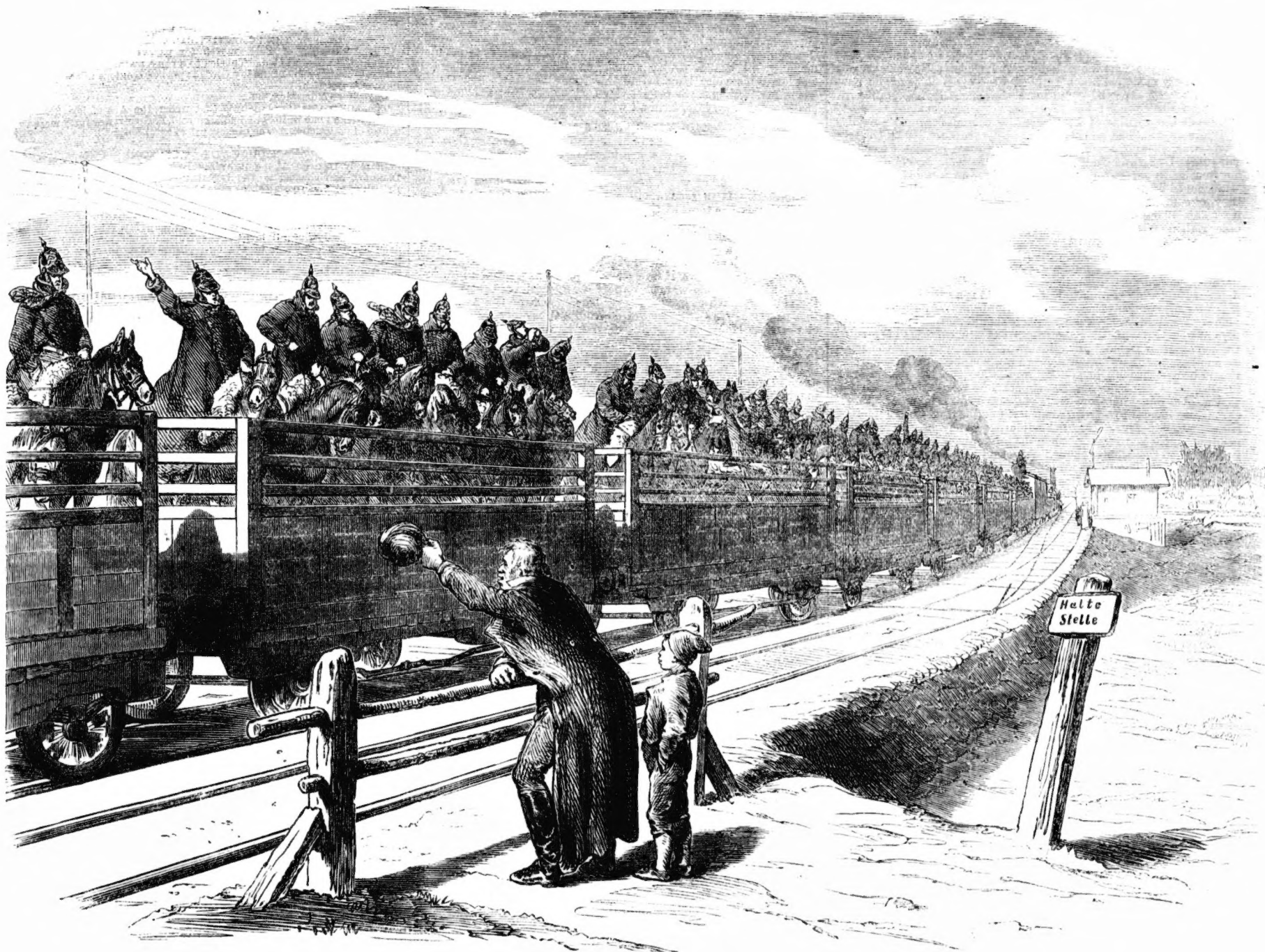
which was accomplished by means of pontoon-bridges and on boats, as shown in the Engraving on the front page; and the other shows the process of forwarding troops by railway through Holstein. The vast advantages of railway transit in time of war have been fully exemplified in the campaign in Schleswig-Holstein; as it is certain that the Austro-Prussian army could not have been brought so soon upon the scene of action had not the two great German Powers availed themselves to the utmost of the facilities furnished by the railways in the country through which the troops had to pass.

THE LATE CATASTROPHE IN CHILI.

In our last Number we gave an account of the terrible calamity which occurred on the 8th of December, in the church of Compania, at Santiago, Chili, and by which 2000 females lost their lives. We this week print two Engravings—one showing the church before the fire and the other exhibiting its ruins afterwards. A very strong feeling pervades the public mind of Santiago in regard to the conduct of the priests on the occasion, who are alleged to have shown far more anxiety to save the plate and ornaments of the church than to rescue the unhappy crowd of helpless women who were suffering so dreadfully within its walls. This feeling is especially bitter against a priest named Ugarte, who arranged the fête during which the calamity occurred, and who is said to have boasted to the Pope's Nuncio that he would show him an illumination such as the world had never witnessed before; and it cannot be denied that Ugarte kept his word. In



THE RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF THE COMPANIA AT SANTIAGO AFTER THE RECENT FIRE—(FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY M. MATHO.)



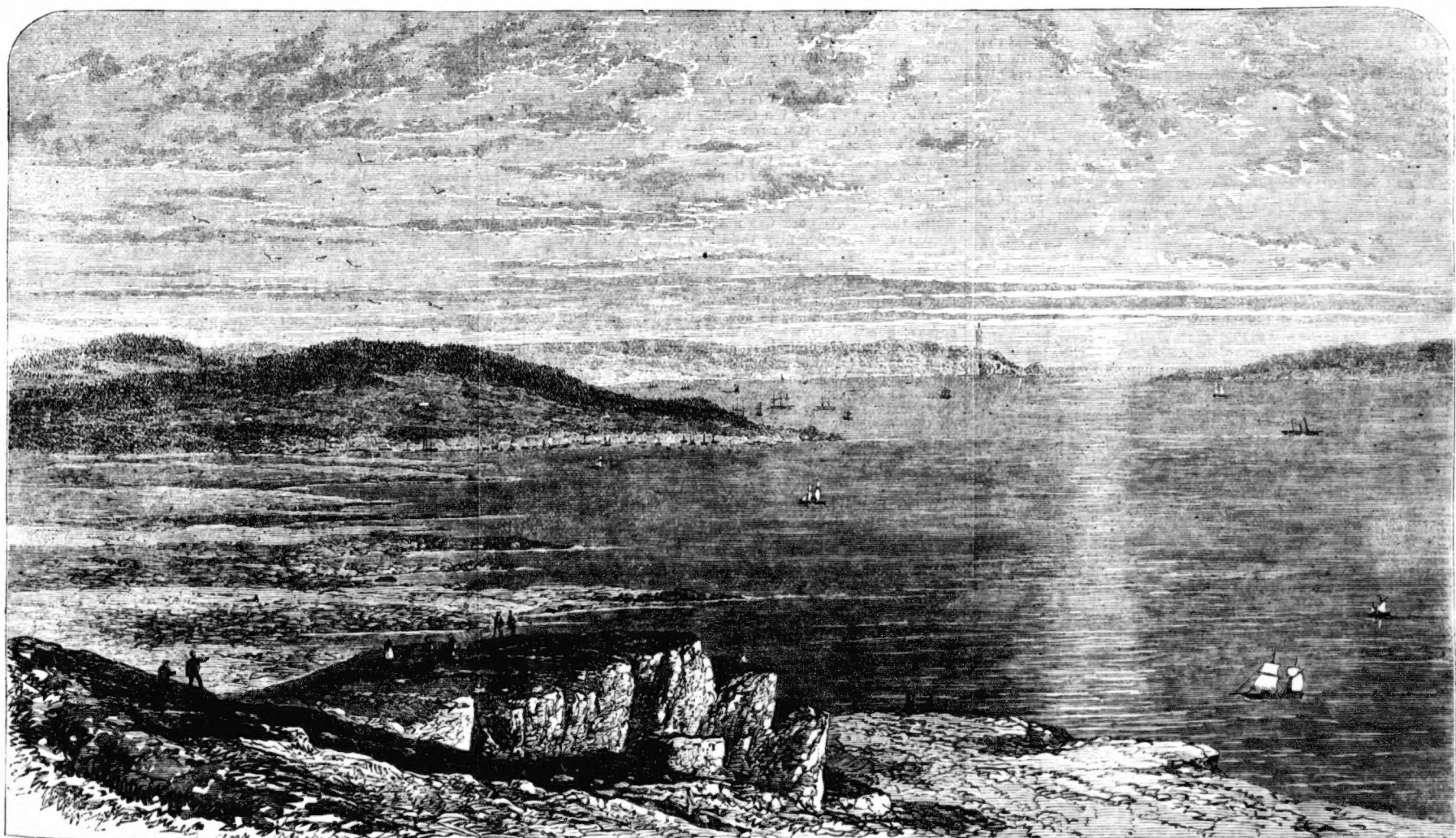
THE WAR IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.—CONVEYANCE OF TROOPS BY RAIL THROUGH THE DUCHY OF HOLSTEIN.—(FROM A SKETCH BY A. BECK.)

down to die on the crimson benches of the Senate; and the great house of the representatives of the nation, in all its pomp and gilt trappings, was for a time turned into a charnel-house. The long line of carriages awaiting the return of those who had perished in the flames were now turned to account, and conveyed great numbers of ladies to their homes or to the hospital, where both English and native surgeons and physicians were in attendance. The fire-engines worked well and unceasingly; but no power of water could ever

have extinguished the mass of inflammable matter, such as gauze, velvet, muslin, tissue, and ladies' veils, fans, and mantillas, saturated with paraffin and thousands of pounds of wax from the melting and flaring tapers that flowed down the steps of the altar.

During the night the Zoological Museum caught fire, and the sparks and cinders were borne on the breeze and deposited in all parts of the town. After three hours the fire companies got the better of the flames, and it is said that the museum has experienced

no loss. Shortly after midnight the great work of exhumation began. Most of the Foreign Ministers were present, and sympathised with his Excellency the President of the State on this great national calamity. Before daylight a long regiment of police waggons were in the vicinity of the ruins, and before the sun had again sunk in the horizon 160 waggon-loads of charred and blackened corpses were deposited in the Pantheon for the inspection of disconsolate parents and friends.



VIEW OF KIEL HARBOUR AND THE MOUTH OF THE EIDER CANAL.—(FROM A SKETCH BY L. A. POWER.)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 223.

OUR OPENING DAY.

WHEN any inconvenient subject turned up in Lord Melbourne's Cabinet, and the question was asked, "What shall we do with it?" that wily, old political bird would not unfrequently say, "Can't you let it alone?" And Lord Palmerston seems to have inherited the policy of the old Whig Lord. The Queen's Speech this year was certainly modelled upon the Melbourne type. The public, however, evidently expected some more than usually important revelations in the Speech; for never have we seen so many strangers present at the opening of Parliament by commission. The number of members, too, was unusually large. There were 210 by the tale. There was, though, no Minister of the Crown present, except you call Junior Lords and Under Secretaries Ministers. Her Majesty was not to come in person; there was, therefore, no occasion for Cabinet Ministers to be present to show their loyalty; and as to the Speech, they, of course, did not want to hear that, as they had manufactured it. The Black Rod—Sir Augustus Clifford—in all his glory of blue ribbons and gold lace, arrived punctually to his time to summon the Commons to the bar of the Upper House, and then we had the usual scene—Mr. Speaker, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing the mace, followed by a mob of gentlemen hurrying, pushing, crowding, and crushing as if every man's salvation depended upon his getting to the front. It is a pity that something is not done to prevent this unseemly disorder. Why should not the House pass an order that the members should march four deep, and give instructions to the Sergeant to exact obedience to the rule? On one occasion Deputy Black Rod was tumbled over by the mob; on another, the Train-bearer's sword was snapped. If Mr. Speaker should be overthrown, or jammed up against the bar and seriously injured, steps will be taken, we suppose, to put a stop to this confusion. On returning from the Lords, Mr. Speaker marched straight through the house to his own residence, and the House was adjourned till a quarter to four. No; not adjourned, but business was suspended; for the mace was left upon the table, and whilst the "bauble" is in position the House, though not a soul be present, is still, by a fiction, sitting. The difference between adjournment and suspension is this: if the House adjourns, the Speaker, on resumption of business, must march into the house in regular form, have prayers read, and count the members; but when he takes the chair after a suspension he sidles into it and proceeds to business as if nothing had happened.

THE EVENING SITTING.

Is it to be peace or war? This was the great question of the day. In her Majesty's "most gracious Speech" there was nothing decisive. The paragraphs which alluded to the Danish question might, like a Delphic oracle, mean either. "But the Government must speak out in the debate on the Address." So thought the members and the public outside. At least we presume that this was so; for on the resumption of the sitting in the evening the members poured into the house in such numbers that the body of the house was speedily filled, and before business began some fifty of our legislators had to mount up to the side galleries, whilst every seat set apart for strangers was occupied. Of course, we were there amongst the strangers, early in our post of observation, looking down upon the mass below, in behalf of our readers, according to our custom, which may now be called time-honoured, for, unless we are mistaken, nearly nine years have come and gone since we first began to write these articles on the "Inner Life of the House of Commons." And now we will tell our readers what we saw.

A SURVEY.

First and foremost, taking precedence of all comers, Mr. Speaker, of whom we have to report that he looks remarkably well and quite up to his work. Indeed, these wigged and robed officials never seem to change. Lord Eversley sat in that chair eighteen years, and to our mind he looked much the same when he wore the wig and gown for the last time as he did when he first put them on. And look at those clerks at the table. From year to year they seem to undergo no more change than the grim heraldic lions carved in oak in the front of the Peers' benches. But we must pass on to Lord Palmerston, who, next to the Speaker, is the foremost man in the house. When his Lordship slipped in from behind the chair a burst of cheering greeted him which seemed to us to come from all parts of the house. His Lordship is always cheered now when he first makes his appearance at the beginning of the Session. Indeed, after only a temporary absence from ill health, his return is generally hailed with a cheer; but it seemed to us that there was an unusual heartiness in the cheering on this occasion. The news that the petition in the Divorce Court had been withdrawn had just arrived, and been whispered about the house; and this little fact, probably, gave an uncommon heartiness and meaning to the applause. His Lordship looked as well as usual, or, at all events, as well as could be expected. From our standpoint we could see little change in him; and at a subsequent part of the evening, when we saw him rise to answer Disraeli and heard his fine voice roll through the house, we could not help saying to ourselves, "Be not too sanguine in reckoning your chickens, ye Conservative expectants of £1200 a year; for, if it be true that the Fates have decided that said chickens are not to break the shell until Palmerston shall fail, we think it possible that, octogenarian as he is, you will not hear them chirrup yet." The man whose hand is still steady enough to enable him to knock down his pheasant flying, and whose lungs are sound enough to send forth a voice of such magnificent volume, may, barring accidents, live on for another ten years. In the other members of the Government we saw nothing specially worthy of notice, except in the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Him we have not seen look so well for several years. Something seems to use a Johnsonian word—to have rejuvenated him; for, if he has not really renewed his youth, like the eagle, he is, in appearance certainly, younger than he was two or three years ago. But this is not so very wonderful when we come to think of it. He comes before the House, maugre all prophecies of failure, a successful Minister, with a considerable surplus in hand and a capital Budget on the anvil; and all this in spite of the destruction of the cotton manufacture, which was, according to his opponents, to disturb all his calculations and falsify all his sanguine auguries. His opponents say he is lucky. He, however, knows that it is not luck, but the soundness of the principles which he adopted, and rejoices therefore. Mr. Disraeli comes before us in deep mourning, in deference to the memory, perhaps, of that Welsh lady who, though no relation of his, left him £40,000. The right hon. gentleman looked sombre as he walked up the house in this unaccustomed dress, as it became him to do who had lost so kind a friend, but pleasantly and lively too, and as you would expect one to look who had unexpectedly received a bequest that will place him at once beyond the reach of the arrows of fortune. In him, too, there is little or no change. Time touches the right hon. gentleman lightly. He is in his fifty-ninth year, but there are as yet no streaks of grey glistening in his hair, and he certainly looks younger by ten years than he is. Lord John Manners, who sits by his side, looks older than Disraeli. His hair is grey, his face is more furrowed; but he is not so old as his colleague by thirteen years. Disraeli was born in 1805; Lord John in 1818. But we cannot notice any more of the members in detail. Suffice it to say that, generally, there is very little change. Time has just tinted all a trifle darker—by which we mean, has made them all look a shade older, as his manner is from year to year.

ABSENTEES.

It is the custom to say when a member dies, he will be missed in the House of Commons. Very few men are, however, really missed from that motley crowd. One drops out, another comes in; and the deceased member is as much forgotten in a week as if he had never existed. Now and then, however, we do really, as we survey the House, feel that some one is gone whom we were accustomed to see. Sir George Lewis we missed for a long time; and even now, though the right hon. Baronet has been dead nearly a year, we cannot cast our eye over the Treasury bench without feeling painfully that one of its brightest ornaments is gone. We also miss this year the

venerable and massive head of Mr. Ellice, the member for Coventry; and no wonder, for he had been in the house for forty years and more, and, moreover, was a man who contributed in no small degree to the character of the assembly. And, now we are on this subject, we may ask where is Mr. Ayrton? He was not present when the House opened, nor have we seen him since. Is he abroad? or ill? One thing is clear, he must either be out of England or tethered at home by ill health, or we should certainly have seen his face and heard his voice long before this. Our venerable and worthy friend Mr. Williams, the member for Lambeth, is kept at home by ill health, which we fear, from all we have learned, is serious.

THE MOVER OF THE ADDRESS.

But it is time now to get to business. The first business, then, our readers will say, was the consideration of her Majesty's most gracious Speech. But this is not so. The first business—putting aside the moving of writs, giving of notices, &c.—which are mere preliminaries, is to read a bill *pro forma*. This is done to assert and maintain the right of the House to deliberate before it takes the Royal Speech into consideration—an important right handed down from ancient times, and jealously guarded, as it ought to be; for though it is a weapon somewhat rusty from want of use, and, probably, will never be used in real war with the Crown again, it may be. At all events, if it never be required as a weapon in future wars, it is like an old warrior's sword—a memorial of the past—and therefore should not be put away. The mover of the Address on this occasion was Lord Richard de Aquila Grosvenor, youngest son of the Most Noble the Marquis of Westminster. His Lordship is very young for such a duty—only twenty-six years old, according to Dod—but then he is a Grosvenor—scion of a house with a pedigree that goes back far beyond the Norman Conquest to a certain family named De Aquila, who held the office of Grosvenor (corrupted now to Grosvenor), or Chief Forester, in the Duchy of Normandy; and, moreover, the head of the house of Grosvenor is fabulously rich, so rich, men say, that twelve thousand families could live upon his annual income, and be fed and clothed far better than our English labourers are. Do our readers wonder, then, that Lord Richard, young as he is, should have been chosen to move the Address? Lord Richard, though thus descended, looked like anything but a Norman Knight or Chief Forester, for he is so small in stature that, but for the glitter of the gold lace on his yeomanry-cavalry uniform, he would scarcely have been distinguished in the crowd, and we should have wondered where his small, pigmy voice came from. His Lordship, though, got on—"got through" perhaps is the better phrase—passably well. True, there was not much in his speech; nothing, probably, that one would care to remember. But then his Lordship most likely did not mean that there should be. His object was to get through glibly, without breakdown or even break; and this his Lordship did. But when he attributed the burning of Kagosima to accident, and some dissentient member cried "Oh!" his Lordship paused, and it was to be feared for the moment that he would lose the thread of his discourse—get off the line, to use a railway figure; but it was only a jerk. His Lordship looked somewhat confused for the moment; but a glance at the paper in his hand started him again, and he moved on easily enough to his journey's end, and was, no doubt, thankful that he had got safely through his perilous undertaking.

THE SECONDER.

Mr. Goschen, the seconder of the Address, is altogether another man. He was selected for this honour because he is the member for the City. Lord Richard represented the aristocratic element, Mr. Goschen the commercial. "And thus," as was sarcastically said, "honour was done to both our national gods—rank and wealth." Mr. Goschen belongs to an eminent mercantile firm in the City. The commodity which the firm deals in, we believe, is money; but how this commodity is manipulated, and by what process money becomes prolific and brings forth fruitfully after its kind, is a mystery which poor scribblers like us cannot be expected to understand. But Mr. Goschen is not a mere money-grubber, such as mammonite novelists and dramatists delight to describe. He is a gentleman and scholar, has been trained at an English University, and has shown us several times that he can think clearly and freely, and utter his thoughts perspicuously, if not with the force of the orator *natus non fit*, or the easy grace of a practised speaker. Mr. Goschen's speech on this occasion was a success. In these formal annual addresses upon the Royal Speech there is not much scope for originality. The speaker can do little more than echo the Address which he moves and seconds. If he can do this with something like life and freshness, and travel somewhat out of the customary ruck of platitudes, he achieves as much success as can be expected. This Mr. Goschen did, and he was rewarded by repeated cheers; and, what is better, the close, unfaltering attention of the House. He might have, however, spared that fling at certain gentlemen on his left, when he was discoursing upon that terrible dismay in society—to wit, the existence of wide-spread pauperism side by side with enormous wealth. He could suggest no remedy. He should not have sneered at those who did. This was the single fault in a speech which was thoughtful in conception, and delivered in a style far superior to the common run of House of Commons composition. Mr. Goschen wore the scarlet dress of a Deputy Lieutenant, which is so bright and glaring that Lord Richard looked, when you could see him, like a tomtit by the side of a magnificent scarlet-plumaged macaw.

DISRAELI.

As soon as Mr. Goschen sat down Mr. Disraeli rose, of course—not, however, to notice the speeches just delivered. The leader of her Majesty's Opposition never meddles with such small deer as the movers and seconds of addresses. He flies at higher game. His object was to criticise the Royal Speech and to satirise its authors—the members of her Majesty's Government, and the chief thereof in particular. And he was evidently in full feather this night, and went to his work with a will, and did it very cleverly. In truth, though, his work was not difficult; he had only to harp upon the old string, play variations upon the old tune—"You have no policy." This was the air upon which the great performer "fantasied," if we may use a musical term, so pleasantly and with such skill, for an hour. Well, we have all heard this melody many times before—"No principles, no policy." This song is as familiar to our ears as the tunes of the street organs; nevertheless, we, who are not politicians, do not complain. True, originality is desirable; genius that can create is far higher than the mere talent of extemporising variations upon an old tune; but, failing the creative genius, it is pleasant to listen to a skilful executant of curious variations. And Disraeli is very clever in this way; and we scarcely ever heard him perform better than he did on this occasion. Some of the passages in his speech were very characteristic, and worth remembering. This, for example:—"No human sagacity can guard against the unconscious machinations of stupidity."

PALMERSTON.

When Disraeli had finished his performance there were loud cries for Palmerston, but the experienced campaigner seemed unwilling to answer the call. He wanted all his toes to appear in the field, that he might settle them with one blow. At length, however, he was obliged to get up, or allow the Speaker to put the question, which of course he could not do. The noble Lord had not a very difficult duty to perform. The burden of his answers to Disraeli was—The right honourable gentleman says we have no policy. Why did he not chalk out a policy of his own? The chief value of this speech was not shown in the answer to Disraeli, but in the clear statement which the speaker gave of the Danish question, and the peaceful tone of his speech.

After this there was nothing to hold the House. Members rushed off to dinner, and soon the speakers had to address themselves mainly to empty benches. The only speech worthy of notice was one from Mr. Kinglake, which was listened to with profound attention. Mr. Kinglake has left his seat under the gallery, where he could scarcely be seen, and whence his somewhat weak voice could not reach half the members, and now speaks from a bench much lower.

Since the opening night to the time at which we are obliged to write little has occurred worthy of notice.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

The Archbishop of York moved for papers in connection with the Ecclesiastical Commission. This led to a conversation on the subject, in the course of which some of the lay Lords expressed opinions not very favourable to the Commission.

In reply to a question,

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that under the Act of last Session forty of the livings late in his gift had been sold, and thirty or forty more were in course of negotiation. The highest prices had been realised.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In reply to a question put by Sir L. Palk, Mr. M. GIBSON said that, as Denmark had acceded to the Declaration of Paris, he apprehended that British goods in Prussian ships seized by Danish cruisers would not be condemned as prize of war.

THE ADDRESS.—STATE OF IRELAND.

On the report of the Address being brought up, Mr. WHITESIDE commented on the omission of all mention of Ireland from the Royal Speech. He described the condition of the agricultural class there as being fearful; pointed to the drain from emigration; and implored the Government to do something to stanch the bleeding wounds of that country.

Sir R. PEEL said things were not so bad in Ireland as they had been represented, and that, in fact, the country was recovering from the depression under which it had been labouring for the last two or three years.

Mr. BENTINCK went into foreign affairs, and declared that all the disturbances on the Continent were caused by the development of Liberal principles. He wailed over the defenceless state of England and snubbed Mr. Disraeli for having talked of "bloated armaments."

Mr. WHITE commented upon the bombardment of Kagosima and condemned it. He also lamented the absence of all mention of reform from the Speech.

Mr. O'HAGAN defended the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, who had been assailed by Mr. Whiteside; and, several other members having spoken, the report was received and the Address ordered to be presented to her Majesty.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships sat for a few minutes, but no business of importance was transacted.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

In reply to questions from Lord Robert Cecil,

LORD PALMERSTON stated that her Majesty's Government had remonstrated with the Prussian and Austrian Governments on the steps taken by them both in Holstein and Schleswig in reference to the proclamation of the Duke of Augustenburg, such proceedings being utterly inconsistent with the good faith which ought to have been observed by those Governments, admitting, as they did, the binding nature of the Treaty of 1852, by which they were bound to acknowledge the King of Denmark as King of those States, and inconsistent with the declaration that they will maintain the integrity of the kingdom of Denmark. The Prussian Government had stated that they disapproved of the proceedings in Schleswig, and orders had been issued from Berlin to put matters right. With regard to Holstein, that duchy was occupied by troops acting under the authority of the Diet, and therefore not under immediate authority of the King of Prussia. The Prussian Government had not denied the positive declaration that they intended to abide by the Treaty of 1852. The meaning of the despatch read the other night was not very clear, but the conclusion of it implied that, whatever question might arise, the Prussian and Austrian Governments were prepared to discuss those measures in concert with the other parties to that treaty. It was alleged in Berlin that if resistance were made in Schleswig it would lead to war, and that war put an end to treaties. That was a most preposterous doctrine, and, if it were once established, any strong Power which had an inconvenient treaty with a weak Power would have nothing to do to free itself from that engagement but to make an unprovoked and unjustifiable attack, and then to say war had broken out, and that therefore they were free from the engagement. That was a doctrine which no Government which had any respect for itself would maintain. The Prussian Government, however, since the adoption of these measures had informed her Majesty's Government that it will abide by the Treaty of 1852, and will maintain the integrity of the kingdom of Denmark.

REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.

In reply to Mr. Bentinck,

LORD PALMERSTON said there would be no reduction of our military force this year, except such as was rendered possible by the change in reference to the Ionian Islands. With respect to our taking part in the Danish war, he declined to prophesy about the future.

SIR JOHN LAWRENCE.

In Committee of the whole House, Sir C. Wood moved a resolution on which to found a bill continuing to Sir John Lawrence his pension, although he had been appointed Viceroy of India. The resolution was agreed to.

NEW BILLS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved for leave to bring in a bill to make free of duty malt intended to be used for feeding cattle. The malt so to be used must be made in a separate kiln and mixed with linseed. After some discussion leave was given to introduce the bill.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then moved for leave to introduce a bill to amend the law as to the collection of the land tax, the assessed taxes, and the income tax. He does not propose to meddle with the commissioners, not at present with the assessors. But in regard to the collectors he wishes to effect a change. The Board of Inland Revenue is to be empowered to announce to the boards of commissioners of any county that it intends to take the collection of the taxes into its own hands. If not more than one third of the boards of commissioners object the Board of Inland Revenue will take the collection. However, more than one third object the collection will remain as at present. After some discussion leave was given to introduce the bill.

Sir G. GREY moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law in regard to the confinement of criminal lunatics. He entered at length into a state of the whole of the proceedings in the case of Townley, and indicated what had been done by himself. The alterations he proposes to make in the law will prevent the mere agent of a prisoner from obtaining a certificate of his insanity. The visiting justices alone can move in the matter, and the examination directed by them must be conducted by properly qualified medical men. In cases where a certificate of insanity is given the Home Secretary will have power to order a further examination before he admits the insanity of the prisoner.

An interesting discussion followed, in which Mr. Macdonogh, Mr. Locke, Sir G. Bowyer, Sir B. Leighton, Mr. Bright, Sir J. Pakington, and others took part. Finally, leave was given to bring in the bill.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

GERMANY AND DENMARK.

The Earl of MALMESBURY asked whether the Government had obtained any guarantee from Austria and Prussia that they would evacuate Schleswig as soon as the Constitution of November was withdrawn; and, further, whether it was held that the Treaty of 1852 was considered binding on the two Powers, although a state of war had been brought about. He entered at some length into the subject, and declared that the Government had allowed it to slide from a European to a mere German question.

Earl RUSSELL said that her Majesty's Government had always regarded the question of Schleswig as one of European interest, and not of local importance only. They had not received any guarantee from Austria and Prussia that their troops would evacuate the duchies so soon as the common Constitution had been revoked; but her Majesty's Government could not consider that a treaty to which the two great German Powers, with Great Britain, France, Russia, and Sweden, were parties, could be abrogated by any outbreak of war between Denmark, Austria and Prussia. In reply to our applications at Berlin, we were informed by the Government of Prussia that their demands upon Denmark were based upon the Treaty of 1852, which recognised the integrity of the Danish monarchy, and that the King of Prussia did not intend to depart from it. It was intended at that time to occupy Schleswig, and it was also perfectly well known that the Danes would resist; therefore, to say that these assurances were given at a time of peace, and subsequently rendered null and void by an act of war then contemplated and carried out next day, was too frivolous for any Government to maintain. Austria and Prussia were bound by the Treaty of London to the other signatories who had contracted with them, and her Majesty's Government had read the declarations of those Powers as admitting their responsibility in this respect.

THE ALABAMA.

In answer to a question from the Earl of Derby, Earl RUSSELL said that Mr. Adams, the Federal Minister at the Court of St. James's, had not presented to him the despatch of Mr. Seward with respect to the depredations of the Alabama, although it would appear that a copy of it had been presented to the Federal Congress.

NAVAL ARTILLERY.

At the invitation of Viscount Hardinge, The Duke of SOMERSET gave an explanation of the steps which had been taken to provide the Royal Navy with heavy guns.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GERMANY AND DENMARK.

In reply to Mr. PEACOCK and Mr. DISRAELI, LORD PALMERSTON said the Government had received no account of a

revolution at Copenhagen. On the contrary, they had heard that riots which arose from the dissatisfaction felt at the retreat of the army from the Danneberg had been put down. His Lordship repeated in substance the answer in respect to the Prusso-Austrian occupation of Schleswig which Earl Russell gave to the Earl of Malmesbury in the House of Lords.

Some discussion then ensued as to the presentation of papers relating to the Dano-German question.—Mr. S. Fitzgerald, Mr. Disraeli, and other members of the Opposition expressing dissatisfaction at the delay which had occurred in the production of the papers in question. Ultimately, the Premier and Mr. Layard promised that all possible expedition should be used in preparing and printing the documents bearing upon the Schleswig-Holstein question.

THE BURNING OF KAGOSIMA.

Mr. BUNTON then moved:—"That this House, while only imputing to Admiral Kuper a misconception of the duty imposed on him, deeply regrets the burning of the town of Kagosima, as being contrary to those usages of war which prevail among civilised nations, and to which it is the duty and policy of this country to adhere." In the course of a long speech he demanded that the House should clear itself from all complicity with the affair.

Mr. AYTOUN seconded the motion, and denounced the conduct of the British merchants in Japan very strongly. He denied that the burning of Kagosima was accidental.

Mr. LONGFIELD moved the omission from the resolution of the words, "while only imputing to Admiral Kuper a misconception of the duty imposed on him." He contended that the Admiral had simply carried out the instructions given to him, and that the blame ought to rest on Earl Russell.

Sir J. HAY also deprecated any blame being cast on Admiral Kuper, as did Admiral Walcott.

Lord STANLEY blamed the conduct of the Government in the matter.

A long debate followed, which ended in the previous question, moved by Lord Palmerston, being carried by 164 to 85 votes. The original motion was therefore dropped.

THURSDAY, FEB. 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CONFEDERATE RAMS AT BIRKENHEAD.

In answer to the Earl of Derby, Earl Russell stated the facts connected with the building and detention of the rams at Liverpool; but declined, in accordance with the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, to produce the correspondence which had passed between the Government, the American Minister, and other parties on the subject.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAYS.

On the motion of Earl GRANVILLE, a Select Committee was appointed to consider the best method of dealing with the metropolitan railway bills which are to be introduced during the present Session.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COLONEL CRAWLEY.

Colonel GILPIN asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether, considering the peculiar circumstances attending the trial of Colonel Crawley, and the failure of the evidence against him, it was the intention of the War Department to recommend that his expenses should be paid?

The Marquis of HARTINGTON said the case had been considered, and all such expenses as were usually paid in such cases should be paid. His journey from India, his living here, and all his witnesses here had been paid. The only expenses he incurred which could not be paid were those connected with the legal expenses.

BANK ACTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

This bill, the object of which is to allow the issue of notes in place of lapsed notes in Scotland, passed through Committee. It provides that the banks of Scotland shall be allowed to issue £337,000 on making a payment to the State of 2s. or £2 7s. 6d. per cent, they being relieved, however, from a payment of 8d. per cent for stamp duties.

REVOCATION OF THE DANISH CONSTITUTION.

In reply to Sir H. Verney, Mr. LAYARD said that her Majesty's Government had given no guarantee to Austria and Prussia that the Constitution of November should be revoked so far as Schleswig was concerned, as that was a matter the Rigsrad alone could settle.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

DURHAM.—Mr. John Henderson, Liberal, has been elected without opposition to fill the seat vacant by the death of Sir W. Atherton.

TEWKESBURY.—Mr. John Reginald Yorke, Conservative, has been returned without opposition.

WINCHESTER.—Mr. Thomas Willis Fleming, Conservative, has been chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Sir James East.

MRS. SOMERVILLE, the veteran lady astronomer, now in her eighty-second year, has just finished a scientific work of great labour and importance.

THE RAILWAY BILLS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT THIS SESSION ask authority for new companies to construct 2264 miles, and existing companies 835 miles—in all 3099 miles of new railroads. There are also sixty-six miles of deviation lines proposed.

A PRINTER'S ERROR.—A ludicrous blunder appears in a Ripon paper, caused by a line which properly belonged to a meeting report having been accidentally placed between two announcements of births. The record read as follows:—"On the 3rd instant, at Ellington, the wife of Mr. Terry, schoolmaster, of a son. He spoke indistinctly, but was understood to say that, on the 5th instant, at Bond-gate, Ripon, the wife of Mr. Joseph Lonsdale, tailor, of a daughter."

ACCIDENT AT THE NEW PUBLIC OFFICES AT WESTMINSTER.—A shocking accident took place on Tuesday at the works of the new Government offices now erecting at Downing-street. The supports which sustained a "traveller"—that ponderous machine which runs along a tramway high in air at the erection of most great buildings—gave way, and the machine with its supports fell to the ground, overbalancing in their fall several men, who were taken up and removed in a shockingly bruised state to the Westminster Hospital.

THE COMET.—The new comet is gradually emerging from the solar rays in order to become visible to the naked eye for a few nights. Its distance from the sun which, on the 27th of December last, was 29,469,000 leagues, was 43,000,000 leagues on the 10th inst. Its velocity is about ninety times that of a cannon ball at the moment it leaves the mouth of the place—namely, about 950,000 leagues per day, but it is constantly decreasing. On the 18th of February it will have fallen to 860,000 leagues, and about the middle of August, 1890, when it will pass through its aphelion, it will be 20,000 leagues.

FIRE AT HILLFIELD HALL, WARWICK.—One of those ancient manorial buildings which are the pride of the county of Warwick has been destroyed by fire. Hillfield Hall is well known to the antiquaries of Warwickshire as a fine specimen of the good old homesteads of Old England. It was a building of the most pure Elizabethan style of architecture, and is said to have been built in the year 1576. There is a tradition, and by many believed to be true, that "Good Queen Bess," when on her journey to pay her memorable visit to Kenilworth Castle, passed a night in a room in the house. The room in which Elizabeth slept, or was supposed to have slept, could at any time have been shown to the curious or the antiquarian lover of such traditions. The glories of the old hall have, however, now departed, and nothing remains but the remembrance of what the place has been. About four years ago the hall was completely restored, at an expense of about £3000.

IMMIGRATION INTO CANADA.—By a return of the chief emigration agent of Canada it appears that the number of persons who arrived in that province during the past year was 19,419, comprising 7679 male and 5215 female adults, 4236 children between the ages of one and twelve, and 982 infants. Of the immigrants 4830 were English, 5508 Irish, 3949 Scotch, 3347 Germans and Prussians, and 2085 other foreigners. The male immigrants comprised 2198 farmers, 3147 labourers, 2098 mechanics, 10 professional men, 23 domestic servants, and 203 clerks and traders. Compared with the previous year, there was a decrease of 2757 European immigrants, notwithstanding which the number of settlers had been materially increased by the arrival of about 5000 persons from the United States, who have become permanent residents in Western Canada. Instances occurred of persons who, having been allured to the United States by offers of higher wages, returned to the colony and resumed the employment they had abandoned.

DELUSIVE PROSPERITY IN AMERICA.—Mr. McCulloch, the Comptroller of the Federal Currency, has addressed to the officers of the new national banks a cautionary circular in relation to the management of their institutions, in which he says:—"Bear constantly in mind, although the loyal States appear superficially to be in a prosperous condition, that such is not the fact. That, while the Government is engaged in the suppression of a rebellion of unexampled fierceness and magnitude, and is constantly draining the country of its labouring and producing population, and diverting its mechanical industry from works of permanent value to the construction of implements of warfare; while cities are crowded and the country is to the same extent depleted, and waste and extravagance prevail as they never before prevailed in the United States, the nation, whatever may be the external indications, is not prospering. The war in which we are involved is a stern necessity, and must be prosecuted for the preservation of the Government, no matter what may be its cost; but the country will unquestionably be the poorer every day it is continued. The seeming prosperity of the loyal States is owing mainly to the large expenditure of the Government, and the redundant currency which these expenditures seem to render necessary. Keep these facts constantly in mind, and manage the affairs of your respective banks with a perfect consciousness that the apparent prosperity of the country will be proved to be unreal when the war is closed, if not before; and be prepared, by careful management of the trust committed to you, to help to save the nation from a financial collapse, instead of lending your influence to make it more certain and more severe."

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1864.

THEATRICAL SUTTEES.

THE Lord Chamberlain acted with commendable promptitude in inviting a deputation of the metropolitan managers of theatres to explain by what precautions it would be feasible to prevent a repetition of such an accident as that by which an unfortunate dancing-girl was recently burned to death, and also to ascertain the practicable means of egress of audiences attempting suddenly to leave the playhouses. This act on the part of his Lordship was one tending in some degree to reassure the public. We can scarcely, however, consider the result to have been as successful as might have been wished.

All the managers appear to have replied to the same effect in answer to the questions addressed to them as to the preventive measures practicable for the safety of the ballet-girls. Nothing can be done but what is done at present, and experience has shown this to be insufficient. Anti-flammatory solutions are useless, because the ladies will not apply them. All lights are said to be properly fenced, and the *corps de ballet* is expressly forbidden to approach them within certain limits. It is true the prohibition has been disregarded, and with fatal results; but for this, of course, the managers would hold the victims alone to be blamable. The new regulations drawn up by Lord Sydney may perhaps have some effect—that is, if they are properly carried out. The Chamberlain's hint as to the probability of a verdict of manslaughter, in the case of a future fatality, may perhaps be not altogether without effect.

There remains yet this question: Is it absolutely necessary for the recreation of the public that poor girls should be placed in such situations that feminine weakness, forgetfulness, or even obstinacy should expose them to one of the most horrible and agonising of deaths? This is really the question at issue. If the dancers will approach the fatally accessible flame, why should it not be removed beyond their reach? During the whole past history of the English stage we believe that no human being was ever roasted alive in front of an audience until about some score years since. Our ancestors had their theatrical enjoyments, nevertheless—in spectacle, burlesque, pantomime, and even, more recently, ballet. The greatest danger lies in those elaborate combinations called transformation scenes, a kind of exhibition not only painful and dangerous to the performers but actually offensive to educated taste. There, amid a blaze of gaslight, tinsel, and colour, lightly-attired young women appear, some fixed in position by concealed iron rods, others dangling in unnatural attitudes, suspended by ropes. Little children, dazed and half-stifled, swing awkwardly, fastened to wires, or recline upon slender supports at perilous heights, above boards strewn with perforated gaspipes, hidden behind cut-pieces. The atmosphere of the "Bowers of Blessedness" is that of an oven—of an oven reeking with vile gaseous exhalations and deleterious products of combustion. And when the curtain falls upon such a scene the poor creatures hurry to their rooms, dress hastily, and rush out into the cold piercing blast of winter to trudge home, it may be, through rain, frost, sleet, or snow. All this for a pittance, in most cases, upon which none but economy reduced to the verge of pauperism would suffice to maintain existence. The "liberal and enterprising" manager, as he rolls homeward, or to his club, in his well-appointed brougham, regards only the plaudits of the house, and reflects how much better this sort of thing pays than wit, humour, or poetry, necessitating the engagement of clever and accomplished actors. It is in vain for these gentlemen to attempt to cast the blame upon a public taste which they themselves have laboured to vitiate, or to urge that nothing more than has been already done can be effected by their ingenuity. Something more *must* be done. The danger must be rendered not only remote, but impossible. If any scenes can only be rendered effective by contrivances perilous to human life, such scenes must be excluded altogether. Let it be but once and for all resolved that no flame shall be employed in a theatre within the possibility of contact with female attire, and the ingenuity of the mechanist will have to be exerted to overcome the new obstacle, as it has done others far greater. The task of increasing precautions against fire would be comparatively easy. The clumsy resource of pails of water behind the wings, where they are in everybody's way, and whence they are constantly removed until no one knows where they are to be found, might be discarded for that of vessels sunk below the level of the stage, and immediately accessible by the removal of a covering. The *ballet* might be taught and re-

taught, until the instruction became part of their received drill, that all the women should fly from their sister in peril from fire, and that any member to whose apparel flame might be communicated should at once sink upon her knees, when the blaze would be comparatively innocuous, and almost instantaneously extinguishable. But, after all, these would be but palliatives for an acknowledged evil, which ought on no account, not even for the profit of managers or the gratification of unthinking audiences, to be allowed to exist for a single hour.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES will hold levees on behalf of the Queen at St. James's Palace, on Wednesday, March 2, and on Saturday, March 12.

THE DUCHESS OF BRABANT is in a condition likely to add fresh strength to the Belgian dynasty by the birth of another son to the Royal House.

THE LATE DUKE OF CLEVELAND has left Mr. Morgan Vane (a young distant relative) residuary legatee, which is, in effect, a bequest to him of about half a million of money.

THE ROYAL SPEECH on opening the Session of Parliament was transmitted to Paris by five wires. The work was accomplished in six minutes, although the document contained 1050 words.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has conferred upon Colonel the Hon. Sir C. Beaumont Phipps, K.C.B., the honorary appointment of Secretary, Chamberlain and Receiver-General, and Keeper of the Signet of his Royal Highness as Prince and Steward of Scotland.

AT A BALL recently given by Prince Borghese at Rome, the Princess Massimo lost a diamond bracelet worth, it is said, 400,000*l.*, and no trace of it has since been found.

LIEUTENANT WALTER LANDOR DICKENS, second son of Mr. Charles Dickens, died at Calcutta on the 31st of December last.

MAJOR GORDON, who is commanding a force in the Chinese service, is a son of Major-General Gordon, of Southampton.

THE ESTIMATED COST OF CLOTHING for the Federal army during the next fiscal year is 58,000,000 dollars.

THE CONFEDERATE GENERAL MACGRUDER is reported to have passed through Southampton a few days ago.

A COAL-MINE has been discovered on the territory of the Beni Ménasser tribe, in the military circle of Cherchel, Algeria.

OVER £12,000 have been furnished by benevolent individuals during the month of January in reply to appeals made through the columns of the *Times*.

THE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY at Kagosima by the British bombardment is estimated at £1,000,000, and 1500 persons were killed.

HARKINS, a Captain in a Pennsylvania regiment, has been cashiered for picking the pocket of a comrade.

THE VEN. JOHN WEST, D.D., Archdeacon of Dublin, has been unanimously elected Dean of St. Patrick's.

NEGOTIATIONS have been opened with a view to a commercial treaty between Sweden and France, and with every chance of being brought to a successful conclusion.

THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT is going to constitute a new Tribunal of Commercial Arbitration at Constantinople, with three judges, English, French, and German.

THE MODEL OF A YACHT BUILT IN 1558 FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH, and in excellent preservation, is in possession of Mr. Brown, of Deptford Dock-yard.

A NEW STEAM-WHISTLE (to arouse workmen), 6 ft. high and 15 in. in diameter, has been erected on Colt's revolver-factory, in Hartford, Connecticut.

THE DEBATES IN THE CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON have become so uninteresting that the New York newspapers ceased to publish them, and one paper says it will not do so unless reported gratis and their insertion paid for.

THE QUINQUENNIAL PRIZE of 1000 thalers in gold, founded in 1844, for the best work on the history of Germany, has been this year awarded to M. Haeussler for his history of that country since the death of Frederick the Great.

SEVEN OF THE FLOWERY LAND PIRATES have been condemned to the gallows for murder, and one—Carlos—to penal servitude for scuttling the ship. The 22nd inst. has been fixed on for the execution.

THE TEMPERATURE was so low at Suez in January that ice was formed—a phenomenon never seen there before, and which greatly astonished the inhabitants.

GENERAL GARIBALDI AND THE KING OF ITALY, who are in perfect accord, are said to be so confident of the spread of war in the spring that a descent on the coast of Dalmatia is already arranged, for which a famous English volunteer, who has, before, served under Garibaldi, has already received his commission.

THE CHARING-CROSS RAILWAY COMPANY have determined to erect in front of their station in the Strand an Eleanor cross, as nearly as possible like that which once stood at the "village" of Charing, and which gave name to the locality.

WILLIAM WHITEHEAD, who recently assassinated a lady in a carriage on the Great Western Railway, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment, a fine of £25, and to find sureties to keep the peace.

THE CONSUMPTION OF TIMBER IN CORNWALL approaches 100,000 loads a year and involves an expenditure for Norway timber alone of nearly £200,000. Large quantities of American timber are also used, in which it is estimated there is an annual expenditure of £40,000.

THE CONFEDERATE CRUISER FLORIDA, under the command of Captain Maffit, left Brest on Tuesday night, in the midst of a dense fog, on a cruise. The United States' war-steamer Kearsage, on being apprised of the Florida's sailing, stood out to sea the same night.

THE COPYRIGHT of Goethe's, Schiller's, Wieland's, and Herder's works coming to a close on the 9th of November, 1867, the Saxo-Weimar Government has proposed to the Diet of the Germanic Confederation at Frankfurt to lengthen its duration for another ten years.

THE VOLUNTEERS of the metropolis and neighbourhood have determined to have a field-day on Easter Monday. It is proposed that the manoeuvres shall take place on a large tract of land known as Blackheath and Farley-heath, about three miles from Guildford.

A MEMORIAL was some time ago presented to Government, with the concurrence of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the bench of Bishops, praying that the diocese of Exeter should be divided and Cornwall erected into a separate see. This, however, Sir George Grey has declined to recommend.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON is reported to have said to the group of Marshals and Generals with whom he was conversing at a late ball at the Tuileries, "It appears that they have begun to exchange cannon-shots in the North. Let them go on, gentlemen—let them go on. It is no affair of ours: our policy should be non-intervention."

THE TELEGRAPHIC LINE BETWEEN OMSK AND IRKUTSK is now finished. The first despatches sent from the latter town on Dec. 21, at noon, were received at St. Petersburg the same day at half-past eight in the evening, having traversed the enormous distance of 5750 versts (820 German miles). A letter from Irkutsk takes twenty-four days to arrive at St. Petersburg.

THE STEAMER MAGNETIC, bound from Belfast to Liverpool, came into collision off Belfast Lough, on Saturday night last, with the schooner Frazer, belonging to Campbelltown, Isle of Man. The steamer struck the schooner straight between the bows and almost cut her in two. The Frazer sunk immediately, and two of the crew were drowned.

A COMMITTEE has been formed for the purpose of inviting the officers and members of the Royal English Opera to become subscribers to a testimonial intended for presentation to Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. Harrison on their approaching retirement from the management of the Royal English Opera, over which they have jointly presided during eight seasons.

THE FIRST RAILROAD MADE IN RUSSIA was that between St. Petersburg and Moscow, 400 miles in length. It was made by an American firm, and they ran it for the Russian Government for twelve years, for which they were paid 2,500,000 roubles per annum. This firm, it is said, netted out of their Russian contracts 30,000,000 silver roubles.

A LINE OF STEAMERS has just been established between Honfleur and Littlehampton, for the purpose of placing the Western Railway of France in communication with the Brighton, South Coast, and Western lines. These vessels have already begun running, and will in future leave Honfleur and Littlehampton twice a week.

The Paris *Charivari* publishes a caricature representing a huge cauldron placed on a blazing fire, and entitled "The Germanic Confederation." Austria and Prussia are sitting on the lid and trying with all their force to keep it down, but it has already risen at one side, and a number of small personages are seen below heating it gradually up. An inscription underneath declares that the boiling pot no longer respects the pressure on the cover.

A YOUNG LADY WAS SKATING a few days ago in the centre and deepest part of Lochend, Scotland, in company with two gentlemen, when the ice broke and all three went down. The gentlemen managed to scramble out, and the lady, who was left in the hole, was buoyed up by her ermine. She was ultimately rescued from her perilous position by means of ropes.

PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES OF PRUSSIA.

THE Princes of the Royal house of Prussia have not for many years had many opportunities of seeing actual war-like operations; and, as might be expected in the descendants of Frederick the Great, they have eagerly availed themselves of the war with Denmark to participate in a little active service in the field. The Prince of Prussia accompanies the army of Marshal von Wrangel, and his cousin, Prince Frederick Charles, commands an army corps which has hitherto acted as the advanced guard of the Prussian force in Schleswig-Holstein, and at the head of which the Prince fought the first action of the war—that at Missunde, of which some details will be found in another column. Prince Frederick Charles's generalship in that action has been somewhat blamed, and to his defective leadership the repulse his troops sustained has been attributed. However this may be, his Royal Highness's notion of the manner in which soldiers ought to be addressed seems somewhat juvenile—at least if we may judge by the following proclamation which he published on assuming the command of the army corps which he leads, which reads more like the language of a schoolmaster to his pupils than of a General to his army; but perhaps, as the Prussian soldiers in Schleswig are said to be mostly young men, the tone of Prince Frederick Charles's address may not be so inappropriate to them as it appears to us:—

"Soldiers!—When the King intrusted me with the command of this army corps, he ordered me expressly to state to you that he confidently expects every one of you to do your duty under all circumstances. When marching hither through foreign towns and villages, the inhabitants, not knowing you, were at first disposed to fear and suspect you; but your quiet conduct and amicable disposition soon opened their hearts towards you, and procured for you not only good food and quarters, but you parted as friends where you were first received as unwelcome guests. That is the right way to make the name of Prussia beloved and respected. Continue to conduct yourselves in the same manner in the country we are come to liberate. Let me tell you that the honour of the Prussian arms consists, not only in achieving victories, but pardoning the vanquished. That is the doctrine of Christ, and it is impossible for a good Christian to be a bad soldier. With the Danes the Prussian name has a good sound. How



PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES OF PRUSSIA, COMMANDER OF THE ADVANCED GUARD OF THE PRUSSIAN TROOPS IN SCHLESWIG.

satisfactory it is to be able to inspire even our enemies with respect for us! Soldiers! In a few days we shall know for certain if we are to have peace or war. Should the second Danish war commence, we shall find our progress opposed by formidable defensive works and broad sheets of water and ice. But these hindrances will only serve to give you a better opportunity of displaying your indomitable courage and zeal. We shall surmount all difficulties, and none of them will be able to stop our advance longer than is absolutely required. Do not those hindrances conceal the enemy that is accustomed to fly at the approach of our regiments? Well, then, let us search for that enemy, cut off his retreat, and destroy his ranks. After these successes you will not let him stop to take breath, but follow him incessantly before he has time to seek the shelter of his islands. You will, therefore, have to perform some fatiguing forced marches, after which you will be rewarded by repose in good quarters, honours and promotion, and the inward satisfaction of having done your duty with a good conscience. For the first time during the last fifty years we find the Austrians fighting at our side. Let us heartily renew our former comradeship with these brave warriors. What a noble race of emulation we have to run with them! But in our own ranks the men of Brandenburg and those of Westphalia will nobly compete with each other for the prize of honour by their deeds of bravery and heroism. Men of Brandenburg! I know you well, and you know me. More I need not say. Westphalians! We do not know each other yet, but so much the better, for a more golden opportunity for quickly appreciating and respecting each other could never offer itself. We all follow the same black and white standard, and we obey one and the same King, who has told us that he confidently expects us all to do our duty. And, with the assistance of the Almighty, we will do so. Long live the King—hurrah!"

The Prince, of whose career we offer the following brief notice, was born on the 20th of March, 1828, and is the only son of Prince Charles of Prussia. Public attention was first directed to Prince Frederick Charles in the year 1848, when he served in the campaign in Schleswig, holding the rank of Captain in the army commanded by General Von Wrangel. In that campaign he displayed great personal courage, and at the storming of the Dannewerk he was in the foremost ranks



COSTUMES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE DUCHY OF SCHLESWIG.—SEE PAGE 100.



VIEW OF THE TOWN OF SCHLESWIG—SEE PAGE 170.

of the assailants, though repeatedly entreated by the General not to expose himself too recklessly to the enemy's fire. He also took part in the engagement at Duppel on the 5th of June in the same year.

In the year 1849 Prince Frederick served in the campaign of Baden, holding the rank of Major, attached to the Staff of his uncle, then Prince of Prussia, and now King William I.; but the peace which followed the close of the campaign suspended for a time his active services. Being an especial favourite of King Frederick William IV., the Prince passed with comparative rapidity through those grades of promotion in the Prussian army which are but slowly reached, even by officers of illustrious birth; and at the time of the King's death he held the rank of Major-General and Commander of a Division. In the year 1854 Prince Frederick Charles was united in marriage to Princess Maria Anna, daughter of Duke Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau. Three daughters are the fruit of this union.

The accession of King William to the throne of Prussia gave renewed impetus to the energies of Prince Frederick Charles. He is now one of the heads of the Prussian military party, but without seeking to assume any political importance; on the contrary, his devotion to military affairs and the absorption of his mind in the study of strategical and tactical science, naturally withdrew him from the arena of politics. As a military writer, Prince Frederick Charles has earned some distinction. He is the author of an essay on the French military system, which, unfortunately, it was deemed advisable to suppress, owing solely to an inadvertence on the part of the publisher; otherwise, the soundness of the military principles expounded in this essay would doubtless have commanded earnest attention beyond the limits of Prussia, or even of Germany. The new organisation of the Prussian army, together with his high appointments, have enabled Prince Frederick Charles to give extended practical application to his own military ideas. Latterly, since the reopening of the Schleswig-Holstein question, he has been in opposition to the Bismarck Ministry, and has been regarded as the head of a Prussian war party.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I HEAR whispers abroad of a new cheap daily paper, with some striking features of novelty about it which must command the public attention. Its politics are to be liberal, and the intention of its conductors, in sporting language, is "to run Mr. Gladstone for the premiership," I am told.

I have been much amused by a correspondence between Mr. Cobden and Mr. Thornton Hunt, of the *Daily Telegraph*, just printed as an appendix to the collected correspondence between the former gentleman and Mr. Delane. It is pretty generally admitted now that Mr. Delane came out battered and bruised from the encounter, and Mr. Thornton Hunt, the mouthpiece of the mythic editor of the *Telegraph*, seems to have fared, if anything, worse. The correspondence with Mr. Thornton Hunt arose this way. Everybody is aware that in consequence of the refusal of the *Times* to insert Mr. Cobden's first letter, that gentleman sent a copy of it to various London daily papers, including, of course, the *Daily Telegraph*; whereupon he received a letter from Mr. Thornton Hunt stating that if he would alter certain passages in his letter to the *Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* would give the letter insertion. The *Telegraph* must have an Irishman for an editor, I fancy, otherwise it would not have suggested anything so palpably absurd. What Mr. Cobden requested was, that it should print the letter which he had sent to the *Times*, and which the *Times* refused to insert; and he is met by the reply, "only alter the letter, and it shall be printed"—the letter in its altered form being no longer the same letter which the *Times* had refused to publish. Mr. Cobden, of course, took no notice of the absurd suggestion, and would not have troubled the *Telegraph* again, I suspect, after this experience of the Hibernian logic which rules in the brains of its conductors, only the *Telegraph*, annoyed doubtless at the quiet contempt with which it was treated, a day or two afterwards criticised Mr. Cobden's letter in no complimentary way, still, however, refusing publicity to the letter itself. At this Mr. Cobden fired, and wrote to the editor demanding justice. But neither would the editor publish this letter; and, instead of justice, sends through Mr. Thornton Hunt again an exceedingly polite and flattering refusal; or, as we might say, instead of justice, proffered soap—patent parmaceti soap. The writer perhaps remembering the famous prescription:—

The sovereign'st thing on earth
Is parmaceti for an inward bruise.

But Richard Cobden "could not see it," to use a street phrase. He did not ask for soap, having had enough of it in his time, and knowing its value. What he wanted was justice. Whereupon another communication from Mr. Thornton Hunt, but still no justice. Nothing but more soap. Resolutely, however, the great Free-trader would have none of it. He asked for justice, and this frothy substitute only seemed to have caused a nausea in him. This short controversy has been to me very amusing. The contrast between the Skimpole-like, airy politeness of the one writer, with his honeyed and soapy phrases, and the vigorous, strong sense and masculine English of the other, is quite a study. By the way, the *Telegraph* is getting rather famous for admitting into its columns fierce attacks and gross insults, and then refusing all redress.

The Kagosima business has come to nothing. Mr. Buxton made a very good speech, and was strongly supported in the House on both sides; but he quailed at the very thought of harassing the Government. First he withdrew that part of his resolution which inculpated Admiral Kuper, and then, at the last moment, backed out of the contest, and allowed Lord Palmerston to carry the previous question, which means that no question should be put. So this affair is over. At one time the quidnuncs thought that a Ministerial crisis might have come out of it. But there never was any danger of this. Indeed, so confident were the Government whips, that they did not think it necessary to get up more than two thirds of their supporters. They relied with perfect security upon the divided and disorganised condition of the Conservative party, and their confidence was perfectly justified, as any one may see who will take the trouble to read the speeches and study the division lists. It was universally expected that Mr. Bright would speak. It was known that he felt strongly on the subject; but he did not speak. I suspect that he saw from the first that this was to be no real fight. Our octogenarian Premier spoke for more than half an hour by the clock, and seemingly with as much clearness and vigour as ever. It has been noticed that he seldom allows the House to go to a division when Mr. Layard has spoken without trying to temper down the effects of the too forcible eloquence of the Foreign Under-Secretary, who has a strange propensity for proving too much. On this occasion some capital arguments against his own position might have been got out of Mr. Layard's speech.

The *Times* reporter of the proceedings in the House of Lords on the opening of Parliament made an odd and unaccountable blunder which I have not seen noticed in any of the other morning papers. He tells us that this is the eighteenth Parliament of her Majesty's reign. At first I thought that this must be a typographical error; but on reading further I found that he proceeded to divide the twenty-seven years which her Majesty has reigned to get at the average length of these eighteen Parliaments. This is the sixth, and not the eighteenth, Parliament; and it is really amazing that such a mistake should have occurred. One would have thought that when he had worked out the division sum, and found that if this were the eighteenth Parliament, the first seventeen could have only lasted sixteen months on an average, the reporter would have seen his error immediately. The first was elected 1837; second, 1841; third, 1847; fourth, 1852; fifth, 1857; sixth, 1859.

There is nothing more contagious than quarrelling, and the quarrels which would-be celebrities and small literati have managed to get up about the Shakespearean tercentenary would be scandalous if they were not ridiculous. This time it is not the inactive and unintelligent officers of the London Committee that I have to censure. After effecting as much mischief as could be effected in a short space of time by a limited capacity, after engendering as much bad

blood as could be engendered by a vast mass of conceit put into active motion, the Hepworth-Dixonians—that gallant band of Shakespeareanishioners, are quiet for a while. This time it is the Stratford-on-Avon committee who have made a blunder.

The Stratford Committee very properly asked Mr. Phelps, the tragedian, to take part in the festival performances, with which request Mr. Phelps complied, saying that, as his engagement compelled him to appear at Drury Lane Theatre on the 23rd, he could not act in Stratford on that night. To this the committee replied that the Rev. J. C. M. Bellow would see him on the subject of the dramatic arrangements. So far so good; but the Rev. J. C. M. Bellow did not see or communicate with Mr. Phelps for a month. When the reverend gentleman did see or communicate with the eminent actor he asked him to appear as Iachimo, in "Cymbeline," on the 26th, the night on which it had been originally intended to play "Hamlet," the character of Hamlet, as Mr. Phelps believed, to be played by Mr. Phelps. Then the Rev. J. C. M. Bellow informed the eminent tragedian that Hamlet was to be performed by Mr. Fechter. Macbeth and Othello were entirely at Mr. Phelps's service, but Hamlet was especially destined for Mr. Fechter, formerly of the Vaudeville and Historique theatres, Paris. To this Mr. Phelps refused consent. Hamlet or nothing!

Mr. Phelps then wrote the sort of letter that all men write in anger, and that wise men keep in their blotting-pads and do not put into the post-office: a letter in which he said that he has "produced worthily" thirty-four of Shakespeare's plays, and that he claims the right of being the first man to be considered in a demonstration in honour of our great poet.

Now, in this matter each party has acted with exactly that amount of right and wrong which breeds all the quarrels in this quarrelsome world. The committee were right in requesting Mr. Phelps to assist in the Tercentenary performances, wrong in their choice of the Rev. J. C. M. Bellow as their representative; not that the Rev. J. C. M. Bellow is not an ardent admirer of Shakespeare and an active member of a committee desirous to do our poet honour, but because his admiration of the talents of Mr. Fechter made him unconscious of the slight which he was putting upon certainly the best Shakespearean actor we have upon our stage; and Mr. Phelps, while wrong in asserting his own personal dignity and dramatic celebrity too strongly, is quite right in saying or inferring—I know not which—that on such an occasion as the festival the post of honour should be offered to a native actor to our language born. It will be hard, indeed, on Mr. Fechter, if over obsequious critics and too partial friends force him into a disagreeable position. Something should be allowed for Mr. Phelps's incautious letter. Tragedians, like Pistol, cannot deliver themselves like men of this world. Blank verse and applause from the gallery are apt to fly to the head. I do not remember that any great military or naval commander, any Lord Chancellor, eminent historian, or celebrated poet ever announced himself as "the foremost man of his profession." Even Americans do not do that. But, on the question of taste that a foreigner should be chosen as the "best man" to act our poet's most popular play, we agree with Mr. Phelps. Mr. Fechter is almost a new man: we have known and admired Mr. Phelps for the last twenty years. If the French were celebrating the birth of Molière, what would they think if Mr. Charles Mathews offered to appear as Georges Dandin or Scapin? They would as soon think of permitting so gross a breach of good taste as our charming comedian would of suggesting it.

The Stratford Committee are carrying all before them in the provinces. In addition to Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, and a host of smaller provincial towns, they have this week secured the promised co-operation of Glasgow and Newcastle. Mr. Ruskin, too, I perceive, has joined their Memorial Committee. A great acquisition this for Stratford-on-Avon.

Really, now, would you believe it? Five weeks are still left to the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday, and the do-nothings of the London Shakespeare Committee—it is absurd to call it any longer "National"—have positively aroused themselves; and what do you think has happened? Why, the site and monument committees have held a meeting, and intend to present a report on Monday next! Of course there is still plenty of time left to get up grand designs, and to obtain thousands of pounds, and to secure the Queen's patronage, and the Prince of Wales's consent to fill the vacant presidential office. Knighthood may still loom in the distance to the aspiring secretaries, and the words "Arise, Sir Hepworth Dixon" may still be said by Royal lips. But will they? That is the question.

The Crystal Palace directors announce that they intend commemorating the Shakespeare Tercentenary in an extensive and appropriate manner, and that it is at Sydenham Palace where the great metropolitan popular demonstration will be held. For some months past Mr. E. T. Parris has been engaged at the Crystal Palace on an exact reproduction of the exterior of Shakespeare's house at Stratford-on-Avon, to be placed on a large stage in the centre transept of the palace, and around and about which the entertainments on the 23rd of April will take place; the great Handel orchestra, the transept galleries, and adjoining spaces affording ample and commodious accommodation, the directors tell us, for tens of thousands of visitors.

This counterpart of Shakespeare's birthplace will be more than 60 ft. wide, the wooden framework, the doors, and windows being exact copies of the original. It is also intended to make within the house an exact full-sized reproduction of the room in which the poet was born, and of the room below—which up to a recent date was occupied as the well-known butcher's shop—and to place there such interesting and authentic Shakespearean relics as have already been lent or will hereafter be entrusted to the directors of the Crystal Palace. What these said relics consist of I cannot divine, as everybody knows that the true Shakespearean relics are but few in number, and in the keeping of those who are unlikely to trust them out of their own possession.

The Crystal Palace directors have discovered that there is a singular appropriateness connected with a great popular celebration of Shakespeare's Tercentenary at the Crystal Palace, which demands special notice. "Part of the palace itself, and much of the palace estate on the Dulwich Wood side, stands on land formerly possessed by Alleyne, one of the principal actors of Shakespeare's own time, and who, in 1612, occupied the Blackfriars Theatre, in which it is well known that Shakespeare held a share and acted. Although it is believed that Shakespeare ceased acting before 1605, his association with Alleyne is indisputable."

Is London to be for Londoners or for people who live out of town? Are railway companies to intersect the metropolis, make tunnels, cuttings—raise arches, bridges, and viaducts—at their sovereign will and pleasure? Or are the dwellers in this capital of commerce to have a voice? Are junctions and locomotive conveniences to be considered, and street-thoroughfare communications to be neglected? Are the arteries of London, already sufficiently stopped up by constant traffic, to be entirely choked by stations and branch stations? Is London intended for the railways, or are the railways intended for London?

These questions, in the accustomed and proper form, are asked by the Institute of British Architects in a petition addressed to the Honourable the House of Commons in Parliament assembled, and signed by the president, Thomas Donaldson, and two vice-presidents, Owen Jones and Arthur Aschpöhl, who pray that the House "will be pleased to appoint a Committee, or recommend to the Crown to appoint a Commission, or to adopt such other means as in the wisdom of the honourable House may seem fit, to inquire into the whole question of thoroughfares in the metropolis, and to draw up a comprehensive plan for efficient and ample lines of street communication throughout."

Certainly, if London is to be a city, or a town, or a capital, and not an agglomeration of wharves and railway termini, this petition should have been presented years ago.

There is another new scheme broached, I hear, for connecting our tight little island with the Continent. This is nothing less than a railway, the piers or supports of which are to be of iron, hollow, and of various sizes, to correspond with the different depths of the sea. "The largest," says the inventor, "might perhaps be about

200 ft. high, the diameter of the base being 300 ft., and of the column rising from this base, 60 ft. The smaller piers might possibly average about 50 ft. in height, and be made exactly like the larger ones, so far as the base is concerned. The piers, being hollow, would of course float, and it is proposed that the required number of piers, after being constructed on land, should be floated to their several positions and then sunk by being filled with water." The inventor further states that "when sunk they will naturally and of necessity remain firm and immovable, and that the piers, being perfectly smooth and round, would offer the least amount of resistance to the waves." What will Mr. Hawkshaw or Sir John Rennie say ament the engineering difficulties of this very bold plan?

Mr. Henry Mayhew has not been appointed Consul at Copenhagen, it seems. The report, to which most of the papers gave currency last week, was a mere joke, originating in the idea that as Mr. Mayhew was the sworn foe of the Teutons, he was the best possible man to send to Copenhagen under present circumstances.

The present week has seen the first number of a new organ of opinion, a sort of "Wednesday Review," only it is called the *Realm*, which is a bad name, whoever did the christening. It is difficult to speak of it as one would like to speak of a newcomer, because first numbers are usually failures. The *Realm* promises to be short, and not to go out of its way to pick up jokes. It is printed in fine clear type, on eight pages folio of good thick paper; it overlooks no topic of the hour; it is evidently in most accomplished hands; and it will possibly go to the dogs. You see, it is too clever by half for a gentlemanly paper—and the *Realm* is gentlemanly. It is not generally known, but there is nothing the public reverts more than well-behaved ability. What it likes is clever blackguardism or stupid goodness. The political writing in this newcomer is very peculiar. It reads like the late Prince Consort epigrammatised by an Englishman who has been in France, and got all the good and none of the bad out of French journalism. I am persuaded Prince Albert would have admired its politics, taken it in, and asked its powerful staff of one to dinner. If anything should save the *Realm* it will be this—the look of wisdom which it confers upon the person reading it. I set two persons, one a gentleman and the other a lady, to pose themselves and study it. I did this because I felt wise myself the moment I looked at it; and both my friends appeared, as they held it up before them, wiser than any mortal ever was in this world, or ever will be. Success to the *Realm*, then. But I fear it won't succeed. Its most peculiar feature is one, I think, new to journals, and not undesirable—a letter from Paris in the original language. "We have sufficient confidence in the education of our accomplished public (says the *Realm*) to believe that they will prefer reading the French correspondence untranslated. A translation not only takes time and implies less recent news, but loses all advantages of style. Of all composition, translation is, perhaps, that which requires most care; for there is a fatal tendency to run into unidiomatic parallelism, which usually makes a hasty translation of French most unsatisfactory English." Not bad for us insular barbarians. Tell us, Messieurs les Parisiens, when will a French journal publish its London letter in the original language with a chance of the most civilised people on the planet being able to read it or caring to understand it.

What odd things people write! Here is an extract from a theatrical notice that appeared in a new Review:—

Pantomime, with its maiden bloom rubbed gently off by the hand of time, is imperceptibly exhausting its strong interest and losing its primitive attraction. The poor Clown begins to look worn and shattered by his herculean exertions for the last five weeks; the Pantaloon appears to present an appearance at once torn and battered by the rough cuffs and kicks with which he has been nightly greeted; the brilliant and agile Harlequin has become less nimble, and his variegated costume lost its brilliancy; while the Columbine, beautiful, graceful, and captivating, appears more like a faded flower (and gallantry forbids us to say more) than anything else.

This is Eccles' vein! Pantomime with its maiden bloom! What is the maiden bloom of pantomime? And the Pantaloon who "appears to present an appearance," and who has been greeted by rough cuffs and kicks? As gallantry forbade the writer to say more than that Columbine looked a faded flower, why did not common sense forbid him to say anything at all?

A week or two since we announced that Mr. Tennyson had a new poem completed. It is a pleasant thing to add that Robert Browning, the only other English poet now living, has also another volume ready for the press.

"Denis Duval" is the title of that last story by Mr. Thackeray which is to appear in the next number of the *Cornhill*. The author talked of inventing a prettier title, something about "the course of true love;" but he died, and the original title stands as he left it.

PROJECTED RAILWAYS IN THE CITY.—Mr. Haywood, the engineer to the City Commissioners of Sewers, has just presented a report upon the projects of the railways and other companies applying to Parliament for powers to construct works within the city of London. From this document it appears there are twenty-four projects in the whole, nineteen of which are for railways or matters connected with railways, one is for the acquisition of property for a site for a public building, one for a high-level roadway and new streets in connection with it, one for laying pipes for the transmission of parcels and letters, and one for the formation of a subway, or tunnel, beneath the Thames. The total length of the various railways proposed to be made within the jurisdiction of the City is about twenty miles. The areas scheduled for projects of all descriptions amount to about 211 acres, but many parts are under notice by two, three, or four companies, and the actual area scheduled is probably about 160 acres only, which are about one fourth of the entire City. The various public ways of all descriptions which are interfered with are about 300; but in comparatively few cases are the levels to be altered when the works are executed. A very large portion of the sewerage works within the City will be annihilated, and will have to be reconstructed upon an entirely different plan. There probably never was a city, says Mr. Haywood, propose buying up and utilising the Thames Tunnel; two propose crossing the Thames, west of the Tower of London, by bridges with spans of 820 feet, and with heights of 100 feet above high-water mark; another, equally ambitious, is to cross at Limehouse; while, to the west of London, four or five bridges, although of less imposing dimensions, are proposed to be built. The Monument, Temple Bar, Drapers' gardens, Finsbury-circus, and Apothecaries' Hall are also scheduled, as are various of the City halls, and the Admiralty at Whitehall. The line of the Fleet sewer is to be reconstructed, and property worth many millions sterling is put under notice.

ADMIRAL HAMELIN AND THE JUGGLER.—Some of the French journals relate the following anecdote of the late Admiral Hamelin:—"Hamelin, when a boy aged eleven, was serving on board the frigate Vénus, of which his uncle was Captain. While on a cruise in the Indian seas the uncle and nephew were one day on shore together, when a celebrated native juggler went through his performance before them. Among other feats was that of cutting in two with a sabre a lemon placed on the open hand of his confederate. The Captain thought there must be some collusion between the two men, and asked for some one to hold out his hand while the feat was repeated. No one replied, with the exception of young Hamelin, who stepped forward and held forth his right hand. The juggler, having examined it closely, declined to repeat the performance. "You admit, then, that there was some trick in what you did?" said the Captain. "No," replied the juggler; "let me see the left hand." He examined it, and then said, "If the boy will hold that hand still, I will do it." "But why the left hand rather than the right?" Because the palm of the right hand is hollow, and there is a danger of cutting the thumb." The Captain then, in his turn, hesitated, and wished to decline the trial. The boy, however, begged so earnestly that it should be repeated that the uncle at length consented. The lemon was placed on young Hamelin's outstretched hand, the juggler swayed backwards and forwards for a moment, and then with a stroke swift as lightning cleft the fruit into two parts. The boy had remained perfectly firm; he had, he afterwards stated, felt the blade of the sword as if a cold piece of iron wire had been drawn across his hand.

FLINT AND METAL HATCHETS.—A remarkable archaeological discovery has just been made in the district of Mouchet, near Gournay, where trenches had been dug for the purpose of finding stones for the road between Candebe and En. By this operation three excavations were brought to light at about a metre below the surface, and at distances of about fifty metres from each other. Here immense quantities of flints were found, under which a considerable number of metal hatchets were found concealed, evidently belonging to the period of the Gauls. M. Halle, director of the works, supposes that the flints must have been purposely heaped upon the hatchets, in order to prevent their being taken possession of by some hostile tribe.

THE EARTHENWARE MANUFACTURES of the Staffordshire potteries have advanced the prices of earthenware 5 per cent. on the net value in the foreign trade, and from 5 to 7½ per cent. in the home trade. This rise is occasioned by several recent advances in the price of coals, and by the increased value of borax and several other articles used in the manufacture.

OUR FEUILLETON.

THEATRICAL TYPES.

NO. IV.—LEADING LADIES, WALKING LADIES, AND HEAVY WOMEN.

The first time that a sensitive and impressionable lad, above thirteen years of age, visits a theatre and sees a play, the most vivid image he carries home with him is that of a stately creature, with high forehead, haughty mien, and thrilling voice; clad, not dressed, in heavy, massive, black velvet, or white, aerial, floating, breezy muslin. In theatrical parlance, this grand and noble divinity is the Leading Lady, or, in the cant translation bred of cheap return-tickets and the desire to avoid simple English, the Tragicienne.

Our readers will remember Penderennis and Miss Fotheringay in Mr. Thackeray's glorious work—how her black eyes and white arms enthralled the enthusiastic boy as he sat spell-bound in the boxes of the Chatteris Theatre—how his eyes followed her as she played Cora in Sheridan's bombastic play, and his heart leaped to his throat when she rushed to snatch her child from Rolla, and cried, "There's blood upon his face!" The whole picture, the whole sentiment, is perfect, and we would ask whether, in after life, when he sent away rechauffe dishes, and pooh-poohed Marsala, Penderennis was ever half so happy, or half so good, as when he first loved tipsy Captain Costigan's gorgeous daughter?

Not a playhouse door in the world opens any night in the year that does not admit one or more Penderennis. Not an actress, however high or humble her position, who is not plagued with Penderennis of all degrees. The Fotheringay herself says "Those children always write verses!"

The love of acting spreads over so wide a surface of society that Leading Ladies are recruited from all classes. Daughters of wealthy men who have bent their knees imploringly to *soi-disant* Siddonses; daughters of ruined gentlemen forced to seek their bread, and insufficiently accomplished for the dreadful trade of "governessing;" daughters of actors, born and reared to it; and daughters of publicans who keep theatrical taverns, where the portraits of popular actors and actresses are framed, glazed, and enriched with autographs. All these are the raw material which time, tact, patience, and the horse labour of a rising barrister manufactures into dramatic heroines. While speaking of portraits, it is impossible not to remark on the blessing of photography to small celebrities seeking popularity.

But though tragic actresses of genius are born, not made, good tragic actresses are made, not born. It is but seldom that they rush from mamma's frowns to the stage-manager's snecr; and when they do, they usually fail. For the same reason that a railway-train bound for Glasgow kindly condescends to start from a terminus in London—that Viscount Horatio Nelson was pleased to enter the British Navy as a midshipman—and that Premiers, Field Marshals, and volunteers wear long clothes before they don Court suits, jack-boots, and knickerbockers—Leading Ladies begin by playing what is called, in greenrooms, dressing-rooms, and dramatic agents' address-books, first and second Walking Ladies.

Walking Ladies have been said to derive their appellation from the fact of their being always ready to escape from their father, aunt, or guardian, and walk off with their lover. In the action of dramas and farces—though the main interest may centre in the Walking Lady—though the question of the play may be whether she marry this Earl, that painter, or t'other ploughman—she herself has but little to do but to look resigned and wear white muslin. She is the especial target for parental anger, and will be best described as the Juliet of private life. Her indifference as to the feelings of her parents is as remarkable as is her blind devotion to the object of her affections. She will run away to be married at a moment's notice and without her bonnet. She is of strong constitution, and is never troubled with a cold in the head, in which respects it may be wished that young ladies in real life resembled her. She is generally of genteel parentage, and her names are either Amelia, Aurelia, Ellen, Bertha, Seraphina, or Clara; there is a great run on Clara—the sound is mellifluous, and the word has the advantage of being only in two syllables. When, however, she is of "poor but honest" parents, her names are usually Susan, Rose, or Jenny. In the facts of filial ingratitude and rabid haste to enter the matrimonial state, Jessies, in "The Merchant of Venice," may be said to be a perfect Walking Lady; but Shakespeare—poor, long-suffering, much-enduring author—made this difference. Walking Ladies are usually characterless: they have no native force or strength of mind. How different is Jessica! Even as she elopes, she bids Lorenzo "catch this casket," and, though she "is stay'd for at Bassanio's feast," she "gilds herself with some more ducats" before she descends to her domineered bridegroom. Who, after this authority, shall say that, "among the peoplesh," love holds no debate with prudence?

This sort of dramatic infancy endured for two or three years, in various country theatres, the walking lady casts off the sash of farce, the wings of ballet, the hood of melodrama and hoop of comedy, and assumes the toga, robe, and crown of tragedy; and then, what weight of work, what worlds of words are piled up for the aspirant! A Colonial Secretary leads a lazy life compared to the poor Leading Lady. And a deceived public believe the actor's life is play. A tragic actress must "study"—that is, learn by heart, as it is called, the text of the characters of Desdemona, Imogen, Cordelia, Lady Macbeth, Constance, Miranda, Rosalind, Beatrice, Portia, Juliet, Hermione, the two Katherines of Padua and Aragon, Julia, Virginia, Belvidera, the Ladies Teazle, Townley, and Randolph, Mistress Jane Shore, and a host of heroines of dramas such as Black-eyed Susan, Rachel Heywood, Miami, Cynthia, and the like—all these oceans of images, Mediterraneans of metaphors, shoals of similes, and prairies of tropes, peroration, and antithesis must be mastered, separate syllable by separate syllable. These are "hard lines," even for that most wondrous of mental phenomena, the human memory.

The leading actress in the country theatre will rise at nine, and, after lavng her hot forehead and pale face with water, snatch a cup of turbid, provincially-prepared coffee, rush to the theatre, for the "call" for rehearsal is at ten. The drama of "Susan Hopley," in which she sustains the character of that pattern of domestic young ladies in service, occupies her till past twelve. She then waits till two, for the eminent tragedian, Mr. Lara Thundertone, who is to "star" as Macbeth that night, does not rise early, and always keeps rehearsal waiting. The "eminent" having at last arrived—bilious of stomach and fastidious of taste—protracts the rehearsal, and, at half-past four, faint, sick, and tired, the sinking actress reaches her lodgings. Her dinner has been waiting two hours. It is half cold and wholly clammy. She is past appetite and orders tea, which is prepared as detestably as was the morning's coffee. Dresses have then to be looked out, unpacked, altered, trimmings changed, and gold lace ripped off and "run on." The basket, that wondrous mystery, is packed, and the actress follows it to the dressing-room, where she is installed by six. For five hours and a half she acts, and acts, and acts, speaks, speaks, and speaks, changes her dress, changes her dress, and changes her dress; and all this time she never sits down for a moment. Home by midnight, she eats and enjoys her supper, the only meal hard fate permits her. "She sleeps well, after that," might say an unbelieving reader. Sleep! She sits up till daylight, studying *Swadine*, in *Sheil's play*; for the eminent tragedian, Mr. Lara Thundertone, of the Theatres Royal Everywhere, has chosen to play "Colonna" on the following evening. Ladies at the head of establishments, schoolmistresses, governesses, shopgirls, milliners, cooks, housemaids, laundresses, and charwomen—what is your work to this?

The power that sustains the actress through her enormous daily and nightly task is the artist's nervous irritability, love of applause, and hope of future fame—that hope so delusive that, in green-room diction, it is called "The Phantom!"

Six or eight years passed in the dreary drudgery of provincial theatres, the Leading Lady at last gets an appearance in London. She pleases her audience—that is, if the manager of the theatre

permit her to appear in a part she can play, and does not compel her to appear in one for which she is unfitted, she is a great success, and, as dramatic slang has it, "her wood is made." Her income is at once raised from £2 or £3 per week to £20 or £30; her dismal lodgings changed to elegant apartments; her shabby black silk gown for new and lustrous moire antique; her old listless, half-resentful, half-despairing manner for a winning grace and proud consciousness of power; her relatives, particularly those who held her adoption of the stage in the strongest horror, call on, fawn, flatter, and borrow money of her; and four and twenty photographers all of a row besiege her door, determined not to move on under a sitting.

But after all, the tragicienne, to quote those funny things the playbills, pays dearly the penalty of her success. For six years she has been "engaged" to a young man, a country actor—a proud, over-sensitive fellow, who, hearing of her good fortune, writes her a sarcastic letter of congratulation, highly italicised. The poor woman writes back to her betrothed that he mistakes and wrongs her. The young man from the country theatre comes up to London, and finds his future wife wadded in a comfort and luxury which he mistakes for magnificence. She keeps her carriage, and visits titled ladies. The young actor is not ornamental in the drawing-room when the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Farquhar Addledaddle, Lady Limpnamkins, and Signor Titifasola are present, and he is affronted by what he calls the "fine airs" of her grand friends. Sir Aubrey Sillidix, Bart., is most particular in his attentions. The young man from the country theatre grows jealous. The actress asks her lover if he has not her word, and if he cannot trust her? He obtains a situation in a minor theatre that he may be in London near her, and finally he takes to drink. He waits for her at the stage door, is violent and abusive. Sir Aubrey Sillidix offers his hand and crest to the new public favourite, who declines the honour with her best air of "grande dame." Sir Aubrey goes on the Continent, and the young actor drinks more furiously.

Mr. Lara Thundertone, whose manners in the provinces were tragic, not to say rude, offers marriage in accents that appear to thrill his watchworks. The eminent tragedian is rejected; such is the perversity of woman. The tipsy lover, who was and is really loved, insults the great artiste as she is getting into her carriage at the stage door. She pleads to him. "Who knows how long my success may last? Let me make as much money as I can while the public like me. It is for both of us!"

"Will you marry me?" is the answering growl.

"Yes, you know I will; but not yet. Three years more and there will be enough for—for anything that may arise."

"I won't wait. You no longer love me! You are intoxicated by your position!"

(Oh, Sir Aubrey Sillidix, you were a fool; but you were a gentleman!)

"Fred, can't you trust me?"

"No!"

Slow, bitter tears, pearls distilled from the heart with an anguish that only women know, are shed, and the actress sees no longer through the molten prisms of love. She beholds the tipsy taproom-haunter as he really is. Away, then, to the Macklin's Arms, unhappy young gin-drinker! You possessed a jewel of whose value you were as ignorant as an Onaheitan of difference on points of doctrine!

For eight or ten years the actress holds the town by right of genius, till she is supplanted by a younger rival. At last she is married to Sir Aubrey Sillidix, who has become a grave and pompous country gentleman, and represents the borough of Balthorpe. Lady Sillidix, of course, no longer acts, and the county, after sulking with Sir Aubrey for two years for marrying an actress, for which Sir Aubrey did not care one sheaf of straw, forgives him, and takes her to its bosom. Lady Sillidix has no family. She is very pale, very charitable, and often looks back on her career in country theatres with retrospective pleasure.

When the L. L. (Leading Lady) makes a failure she returns to the provinces; or, if she be gifted with a matronly figure and deep voice, drops into what is called "heavy business"—that is, she plays Emilia, in "Othello;" the Queen, in "Hamlet," &c. "Heavy Women," as they are elegantly and delicately designated, have often large families and rickety husbands, and support both with a heroism far more admirable than that of the wordy and blatant personages they represent. Those who know but little of theatres and their belongings, often regret that actresses in private life so little resemble the heroines they portray. If they could look on them, not by the false medium of batwing burners, but by domestic daylight or economical composites, they would regret that heroines did not oftener idealise the real virtues of actresses—virtues intensified and polished by the cultivation of the most emotional of arts. Though all leading dramatic heroines do not become the wives of baronets, the practice of their calling so refines and educates their sentiments that they are always ladies.

T. W. R.

Literature.

Savage Africa: Being the Narrative of a Tour, &c. By W. WINWOOD READE. With Illustrations and a Map. Smith, Elder, and Co.

It is possible that readers who read everything may think—if they have, under the circumstances, time left for anything else than reading—that they have recently had quite sufficient concerning Africa. The names of Livingstone, Du Chailu, Speke, and Burton will occur to them, and they may think the subject exhausted before Mr. Winwood Reade entered the field. But it should be remembered that at Waterloo, late as was the arrival of those Prussians who are so prompt in the field to-day, they had much to do in making the victory complete and decisive. It would not be difficult to follow up the parallel suggested. Former adventurers have had much danger and difficulty to overcome, whilst Mr. Reade's course seems to have been in no way hazardous or combative, except as regards the peculiar features of the country, and which every African traveller must be prepared to endure or to surmount. As far as the natives were concerned, his path was strewn with flowers—once, indeed, orange-blossoms looked delightfully imminent; but Mr. Reade discovered that his dusky adorer loved him only for his wealth and for his power. Unarmed, he went freely amongst the people, and never once did he perceive any tendency towards violence. His general summing up of the African character is greatly in its favour; although, indeed, he frequently agrees with Captain Burton and others, in abhorrence of the "noble savage," and cannot be held to have throughout supported his kindly summing-up by the facts of his own evidence. So amiable an inconsistency will be pardoned for the sake of the author's gay and sometimes brilliant style, which, whilst erratic and unsettled, is fresh and evidently natural. The book contains much that is not to be found in other works; and indeed, described at full length, professes to be the "Narrative of a Tour in Equatorial, South-Western, and North-Western Africa: with Notes on the Habits of the Gorilla; on the Existence of the Unicorn and Tailed Men; on the Slave Trade; on the Origin, Character, and Capabilities of the Negro; and on the Future Civilisation of Western Africa." Here, then, is rather more than we are prepared to discuss with Mr. Reade, who has nearly six hundred pages of full size against our solitary column. Therefore a glance at such passages as we have marked—marked for their novelties, their amusing qualities, or their differences from other authorities—will be sufficient to make the reader understand Mr. Reade, and take the laurels or the cudgel, as the case may be, into his own hands. But a passage which comes in at the end of the volume will be better placed at the beginning of these remarks. When Mr. Reade says that he likes the Africans—and he speaks many pages in their praise—he explains that all Africans, of course, are not negroes, and that he does not include the negro in his heart of hearts. He says, "Let us consider the characters of the true or typical negro," and then follows a description of his black skin feeling like wood; his crisp,

woolly hair, degraded features, hopeless heel for the boot-maker, absurd deformities of body, thick skull, offensive odour, and many other little details too purely physiological for the present purpose. And so it is proved by measurements, by microscopes, by analyses, that the typical negro is something between a child, a dotard, and a beast. There is no disputing the sacred facts of science. It is idle, as a matter of taste, to say that the cube is the most perfect form of beauty, and then endeavour to prove that the earth is not orbicular. The negro is distinct from the European. But, whilst Mr. Reade "cannot venture to dispute the degradation of the negro," he contends that "it is only degradation; that it is the result of disease;" that it is not characteristic of the African continent; and that it is "confined to a small geographical area."

Passing over the voyage and such matters as are generally familiar, a few lines concerning Sierra Leone will be found fresh. The "rainbow" simile was long ago used by Douglas Jerrold in respect to some chattering and highly coloured mammalia:—

The negro imitates the white man as the ape imitates the negro. The result in both cases is a caricature. The rich negro of Sierra Leone is dressed as if he had taken a bath in a rainbow; and his manners are so strained and pompous that a close imitation of them, even in the broadest farce, would be looked upon as a rough over-acting of character. But, most comical of all, is the manner in which negroes identify themselves with the parent country. To hear them talk, you would think that their ancestors had come over with William the Conqueror; and that they even take to themselves all the glories of our history the following anecdote will prove:—The French consular agent having some time ago overstepped the limits of the land, a warrant was taken out against him. Holding the sable powers in great contempt, he armed himself with a pair of pistols and defied them with the air of a brigand at the Victoria. "Ah!" cried the two constables, rapidly retreating, "we no care for you, one dam Frenchman. I tink you forget we win Waterloo—eh?"

It is one of the chief peculiarities of the Sierra Leone negro that he hates, with an intense and bitter hatred, this white man, to whom he owes everything.

But that all should be barren from Dan to Beersheba is too much for Mr. Reade, who, at an early period, begins to observe the plums in the black-pudding. In much-decried Dahomey, for instance, he finds that drunkenness is a sin; whilst in England it is only "bad taste." Dogberry—not Mrs. Malaprop, as careless students are fond of quoting—was right: comparisons are odious (in English). In republican Africa and in polished Europe adultery is a venial offence, and possibly one of those "crimes made venial by the occasion," as Miss Sophia Lee observed, and as Lord Byron appropriated. But under the "barbarous despot of Dahomey" it is a crime punished by slavery or death. In Ashanti, more civilised, the law is milder and the effects worse. King Poppel, of Bonny, is described as having considerable shrewdness—all the world knows he keeps a Laureate—even to the extent of affecting to be deaf when puzzled in conversation. He cannot understand the European love of sporting, but it is not said to be the result of any tender feeling towards dumb creatures.

There is an amusing passage concerning the interpreters with great people. The scene has been done to perfection in "Esther," and we cannot venture to quote. But it is highly characteristic, and will strike the reader as important in illustrating the relations of English travellers towards black Kings. Next, a subject—an universal subject—eating! Now some people will be fastidious, and refuse frogs and snails in France, where they are delicious; and birds'-nest soup in China, which cannot be surpassed. There is a story of a gentleman who, dissatisfied with Luckie, the butcher, sent for Slater. Slater sent his best. "My darling," said Papa to his little boy of ten, "you don't eat. Do you not like the lamb?" And the reply was "Dear Papa, I have no charge to make against the lamb—only—it's—it's not Luckie's lamb." The delicate palated hero of the story should lay down his knife and fork and listen to the following tragedy, the moral of which is—be adventurous, but be not too adventurous:—

My tongue received the first morsel of monkey with a doubt which leapt into gusto. In that superb *bonne-bouche* the delicacy of a pullet and the rich savour of a hen pheasant palpitated on my palate torn by turn. When the meal was ended and sweet digestion crept within my frame, I sank into a voluptuous reverie, which intensified itself into sleep. The triumph of mind mingled with the languor of matter and made me dream. The discovery of a new dish (says Brillat-Savarin) does more for mankind than the discovery of a new star. I had not only discovered a vegetable gravy—I had discovered that monkey had a game flavour. I saw monkey à l'india in all the cartes of the London restaurants. I saw myself invested with the freedom of the City by a grateful Corporation.

Awaking, I saw before me a man who was eating voraciously. The stomach is a region of sympathy (Van Helmont). I watched him at first with godnaudered sympathy, secondly with curiosity, thirdly with envy. What was it he was eating? A greyish-coloured mess piled in a calabash. Into this he dipped his wooden spoon with movements so rapid that they would have excited my admiration had not they aroused my fear.

In a few moments it would all be gone. I had seen nothing like that before. Perhaps it was the wondrous hashchich which Monte Christo gave to his guest in the palace-cave. It would at least be something far better than monkey or odika, this dish which the man continued to eat with yawning mouth and glaring eyes.

I demanded a little, and took a huge glutinous mouthful. Success in experiment had made me rash. Scarcely had it entered my mouth than it flew out accompanied with oaths:—"Bring me some water, Mongilomba," I spluttered. "It's soap and red pepper!"

"He no soap, Sir; he grow for bush. What time you see soap grow for bush?"

Mongilomba was right. It was a kind of fruit which tastes exactly like yellow soap, and which the natives eat boiled and seasoned with pepper—a fact which may be interesting to botanists, but which destroyed my digestion.

The chapter concerning the Camma country is interesting and sentimental. Here occurs that love-making passage already alluded to. A description has already been given of how *Paffaire* finished; let us see how it began. It is a warning to mothers, as well as to all unsophisticated little ladies:—

To bestow a kiss upon lips which tremble with love for the first time is certainly an epoch in a man's existence. Then, imagine what it must be to kiss one who has never conceived the possibility of such a thing, who has never dreamt that human lips could be applied to such a purpose!

It was one of those moments in which the heart rises to the lips and makes them do all kinds of silly things. I kissed Ananga, the daughter of the King.

She gave a shriek, and bounded from the house like a frightened fawn. This mode of salutation is utterly unknown in Western Africa. She knew that the serpent moistens its victim with its lips before it begins its repast. All the tales of white cannibals which she had heard from her infancy had returned to her. The poor child had thought that I was going to dine off her, and she had run for her life.

I will not tell you how Oshup brought her back, panting and trembling, and her cheeks wet with tears; how I explained to her that this was only a fashion of my country, and how she offered her pouting lips (slightly shuddering) in atonement of her folly. But I do think, and I will always maintain, that though the negro intellect is not yet in a fit state to grasp the doctrinal mysteries of our Church, yet a mission for the diffusion of this Christian practice among a benighted people would meet with eminent success, and would make innumerable female converts.

As it is impossible to follow Mr. Reade through the gorilla question, it may be merely said that he thinks M. Du Chailu "has written much of the gorilla which is true, but which is not new; and a little more which is new, but which is very far from being true." Mr. Reade himself never saw a gorilla, but thinks he heard one once. But yet all the local testimony went to show that there was no want of gorillas. Surely, then, this is wiping out M. Du Chailu with a very dry sponge. There can be no logical inference that because the gorillas fought shy of Mr. Reade, they should not have been even on aggressive terms with M. Du Chailu.

Senegambia, the last point of Mr. Reade's journey, which is of special interest, contains the most interesting points of all the volume. The half civilisation which obtains gives opportunity for quaint reflections. The remaining chapters are diffuse and wandering, but yet spring from the preceding group. The stories in old books concerning tailed men, unicorns, &c., Mr. Reade thinks supported by his own inquiries. Such inquiries may be taken for "what they are worth." There are plenty of foolish people in London, even, who are certain to remember anything, provided somebody asks if they remember it. The chapters concluding the volume, called "Malaria," "A Negro," and "The Redemption of Africa," certainly put three important objects of observation in a clear and steady light. Mr. Reade's volume is entertaining throughout, and every page bears the impress of at least an honest pen.

gether. Each writes their true or some feigned name upon separate billets, which they roll up and draw by way of lots, the maids taking the men's billets and the men the maids'; so that each of the young men lights upon a girl that he calls his Valentine, and each of the girls upon a young man, whom she calls hers. By this means each have two Valentines; but the man sticks faster to the Valentine that has fallen to him than to the Valentine to whom he is fallen. Fortune having thus divided the company into so many couples, the Valentines give balls and treats to their mistresses, wear their billets several days upon their bosoms or sleeves, and this little sport often ends in love, and no wonder. The devotion of a fortnight, during which her Valentine was constantly planning pleasant diversions, must have been too sweet an experience for any young maiden not to desire its perpetuation. It is a thousand pities that such an admirable custom should have fallen into decay. How easy it made courtship! With what mutual confidence it must have inspired the happy couple! By what insensible degrees a man might become accustomed to the matrimonial state under the golden influence of this probationary companionship! "The good Bishop Valentine" having performed a preliminary ceremony, the idea of marriage must have become familiar; and men jogged gently onward towards that pleasant goal without suffering too abrupt a shock.

With that love for the words of Nature which was always, and we believe is still, a part of the English character, Valentine's Day, and the time of year in which it falls, became associated with the pairing of birds. Most of the early "Valentines" contain allusions to this; for poetry soon became a part of the ceremony, and verses to the objects of their affection came at last to be a favourite exercise of many of our most distinguished writers.

Odes to Valentines run through English literature. The day, at least, is alluded to by Chaucer, Lydgate, and Shakespeare. One of the earliest known writers of love verses for Valentine's Day was Charles, Duke of Orleans, who was taken prisoner at the Battle of Agincourt; but since his time there have been exquisite songs written for the same purpose, and with which most readers of early English poetry are familiar. Thus Drayton sings:—

Muse, bid the morn awake,
Sad winter now decline,
Each bird doth cry 'tis love's time,
This day 'tis St. Valentine's!
For that good Bishop's sake,
Get up, and let us see
What beauty is shall be
That Fortune us assigns.

My lips I'll softly lay
Upon her heavenly cheek,
Dyed like the dawning day,
As pink and ivory sleek:
And in her ear I'll say,
"O thou bright morning star!
Tis I that come so far,
My Valentine to seek."

Thus Valentine's Day was ap-



SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY.
When the Fathers of the Church, with a wise discretion, modified some of the old Pagan festivals by associating them with the names of the saints, and so turned them into holy days, they found no little difficulty in abolishing the gross customs which had previously been a part of the celebration. It would be an equally arduous task to preserve the meaning of those ceremonies with which many of them were associated after they had become part of the Christian calendar, since, if they have not degenerated in the direction of goodness, they have become mere trivial observances of little value, and appealing to no sentiment whatever. Taking this view of the matter, it would perhaps be useless to bewail the altered estimation in which the day of St. Valentine is held in our own time. That unfortunate saint himself, who was martyred by being clubbed and afterwards beheaded in the streets of Rome, could scarcely have anticipated that his day would be in any sense observed fifteen centuries after the Lupercalian festival during which he was canonised. These Lupercalia, held during a great part of the month of February, were feasts in honour of Pan and Juno; and amongst other sports was that of a sort of sweetheart lottery, in which the names of a number of young women were placed in a box and drawn by the men like prizes, as we may hope they turned out to be. Now, in this particular instance the fathers endeavoured to carry out a reform which was a little too sweeping, by substituting the names of saints for those of the girls—an innovation to which their followers were unwilling to submit, and so it happened that the saints had to give place again to those who have sometimes been profanely called angels. But the festival was purified and controlled: the day was known as that of the poor Martyr whose remains are still preserved in the Church of St. Praxeder, at the Porta del Popolo (once the Porta Valentini) at Rome, and the mutually chosen partners were known as Valentines. It must be the powerful and universal sentiment with which this festival has always been connected which preserved it, almost unaltered in form, to within a comparatively short period; and possibly the English liking for genial and demonstrative fun made Saint Valentine's Day one of the most popular in the calendar. However this may be, it is quite certain that the observance—very little altered from its original form—was common in England until little more than a century ago.

"On the eve of Saint Valentine," says Misson, in an account of his travels, "the young folks of England and Scotland, by a very ancient custom, celebrate a little festival. An equal number of maids and bachelors get



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.—ON THE ALERT FOR THE POSTMAN.



THE OPENING OF THE NEW NATIONAL GALLERY IN DUBLIN BY THE LORD LIEUTENANT.—(FROM A SKETCH BY PAUL GRAY.)

propriate both to the courtly and chivalrous lover and to him who was more simple and rustic; but in both cases it may be believed that this chance, sportive companionship frequently led, and was, indeed, expected to lead, to very serious matrimonial results. Later in the history of the festival we find that the first person of the opposite sex seen on the morning of the day was held to be the Valentine; and sometimes the old superstitious ceremonies of Michaelmas Eve were transposed to the eve of St. Valentine, and young girls sewed bay-leaves to their pillows, or ate hard-boiled eggs filled with salt, in order that they might dream of their future husbands.

The old custom of drawing for Valentines continued, however; and it is pretty evident, not only that the chance was adhered to, but that the good old fashion of a liberal present was expected at the hands of the fortunate gentleman. Who does not remember the hands of the fortunate gentleman on Valentine's Day, 1667:— "This morning came up to my wife's bedside (I being up dressing myself) little Will Mercer to be her Valentine, and brought her name, written upon blue paper in gold letters, done by himself, very pretty, and we were both well pleased with it. But I am also this year my wife's Valentine, and it will cost me £5, but that I must have laid out if we had not been Valentines." A mean sentiment, which is only equalled by what follows two days afterwards:—"I find that Mrs. Pierce's little girl is my Valentine, she having drawn me, which I was not sorry for, it easing me of something more, which I must have given to others."

In noticing the jewels of Miss Stuart (afterwards Duchess of Richmond) the same chronicler says:—"The Duke of York, being once her Valentine, did give her a jewel of about £800; and my Lord Mandeville, her Valentine this year, a ring of about £300."

This, then, was the way in which Valentines fulfilled their obligations in those days; and our fair readers will, we hope, agree with us in mourning over the decadence of so admirable a custom, which would have enabled one at least of their number to test the liberality—say of Mr. Baring or the Marquis of Westminster.

There is no draught by lottery now; the true ceremony of Saint Valentine and that liberality which was the very spirit of the festival have departed together. The only sign of this once delightful anniversary is the sudden eruption of weak amatory verses and trussed cupids at the stationers' shops. A fact still more significant of our cruel, cynical, and unbelieving age is that of the prevalence of those insulting pictures and still more disgraceful verses which often ridicule the best feelings of human nature—one of the most popular relating to a man nursing his own baby and alleviating its infantile distresses. The ingenuity with which some of these productions are contrived is a shocking characteristic of our altered condition. Many of the earlier efforts, which were as scandalous as certain so-called "religious tracts," and as vulgar as corporation speeches, have been justly banished to remote shops in back neighbourhoods—the shops where Skelt's theatrical characters, "a penny plain and twopenny coloured," still linger. In one of these we saw, only a day or two ago, the valentinian resemblance of a parson in a bushy wig and black small clothes; and a hundred small general shops are filled for the time with policemen extracting legs of mutton from areas, hideous tailors riding on impossible geese, red-nosed undertakers' men drinking from bottles, and other hideous compositions, even including the impalement of an elderly female on a diabolical pitchfork. Yes, St. Valentine is publicly profaned in an age when a fast young man, instead of praising his mistress's eyebrow, will insult her crinoline—when allusion to her dainty feet will involve a sneer at the Balmorals which cover them—and Cupid and Psyche have given place to Punch and Judy. "This is an age of utility, and we don't want any such rubbish," says a smart disciple of the Manchester school. Very well, then; send your Valentine a goose or a leg of mutton; but, for goodness sake! send something, and don't twang your miserable jew-harp and think to drown the melody of Apollo's lyre.

There are some followers of the saint still left, or what can be the meaning of "Valentines from a penny to five guineas"—an announcement which is visible in certain well-regulated establishments where exquisite productions of art grace the windows? Who are the purchasers of those beautiful nests of flowers which, when pulled up by a dependent thread form a lace-like cage, and disclose a brace of sleeping loves; of those gorgeous envelopes in which paradise birds of spun glass spread their wings over a magic mirror; of those marvellous fabrications of lace, and velvet, and beads, and dried violets which no man dare attempt to fold, or even to remove from the powerfully-scented box in which they are dispatched?

Amongst the many thousands of extra letters reported to have passed through the post on this anniversary, there must, after all, be a large proportion of loving missives, or the postman would sink exhausted beneath his burden. Bright expectant eyes follow him as he goes his rounds on this morning. Beating hearts mark his approach, wistful looks regard him as his rat-tat thunders from over the way, from next door but one (the Joneses), from next door—(letter, two letters, three letters for the Miss Simkinses), from our own door—bang! bang! Good gracious, what a time John is! Why does he wait to put the letters on a tray? Oh, bliss! who can have sent them? What comparing of handwriting—what guessing—what suspicion that the envelope with the country post-mark comes from Harry—what confusion when Harry himself, dropping in casually in the evening, meets Robert and Algernon, who have also dropped in casually; and they all begin to tell white lies, not being quite certain of their ground, and in fear of having offended. Banish fear Harry, Robert, Algernon: in our picture you see how your letters were received this morning, Banish fear; help to revive the good old practice of choosing your partners without shame, and so come in no niggard spirit to observe St. Valentine's Day. T. A.

THE INAUGURATION OF THE DUBLIN NATIONAL GALLERY.

ON Saturday, the 30th of January, the inauguration of the Dublin National Gallery was preceded by that of the colossal bronze statue erected to William Dargan. The statue stands to the south of the gallery, facing Merrion-square, on the site of the Great Industrial Exhibition, which owed so much of its success to the enterprise of Mr. Dargan himself. The pedestal, 11 ft. in height, and the base, about 6 ft. square, are formed of hard Galway marble, and, as the statue itself is 11 ft. high, the entire elevation from the ground to the top of the head is 22 ft. A handsomely carpeted platform had been erected round the statue, containing seats for the visitors, who consisted of most of the high officials in Dublin and their friends, including a large number of ladies. Shortly before two o'clock, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant and his suite drove to the lawn, preceded by outriders. His Excellency, who was accompanied by the Marquis and Marchioness of Kildare and his private secretary, Mr. John Hatchell, was received by Lord Talbot de Malahide, the Lord Justice of Appeal, John Lentaigne, Esq., and Joseph Boyce, Esq., trustees, and Sir Robert Kane and Alexander Boyle, Esq., hon. secretaries to the Dargan committee, by whom he was conducted to the platform. Mr. Boyle then read an address, in which the trustees and committee stated that, in order to transmit Mr. Dargan's name to posterity in connection with the chief object he contemplated in promoting the exhibition of 1863—which was mainly to stimulate and encourage native industry—they had endeavoured to bring into existence an institution in which the public mind may be educated to appreciate the graceful and the beautiful, and thus to give an impulse to the introduction of artistic skill and refinement into the ordinary appliances of everyday life. To accomplish this end the committee handed over, by deed, £5000 of the funds subscribed, by trustees appointed by the Act for the erection of the National Gallery of Ireland, of which the Dargan Hall was to form a principal feature. It still remained permanently to associate the name of William Dargan with this great national undertaking; and, by the aid of eminent artists, to perpetuate the features and bearing of the man through whose munificence, directed by science, this noble work was achieved. For this purpose they availed themselves of the skill and genius of Mr. Catterson Smith, President of the Royal Librarian Academy, and Mr. Thomas

Farrel, of whose pencil and chisel the portrait in the gallery and the present statue were the creations. After the uncovering of the statue the Lord Lieutenant referred to the occasion in an admirable speech, in the course of which he said—"We raise his statue because he supplies a memorable instance of how a simple, earnest, honest man, without any help from birth or fortune, by the energetic exercise of the faculties his God has given him, may not only raise himself to a commanding level beyond his own original position, but may also confer signal benefits upon the men of his day and upon the country which has learned to be proud of him and is thus proud to show it." After an address from Lord Talbot de Malahide thanking his Excellency, the visitors entered the National Gallery, at the entrance of which the Lord Lieutenant was received by a company of high official personages and conducted to a dais in the western end of the principal picture-gallery. His Excellency having taken his position on the dais, Mr. Mulvany, R.H.A., read an address from the governors and guardians of the gallery stating the circumstances under which it had been founded to commemorate the Great Industrial Exhibition of 1853. The paintings now brought together as national property have been obtained by private subscriptions, amounting altogether to £3000, supplemented by a small Parliamentary grant of £2500, by a few donations or bequests, and, finally, by deposit or transfer on the part of the trustees of the National Gallery of London.

His Excellency, having expressed his great gratification at the share allotted to him in the auspicious proceedings of the day, and having warmly stated his earnest wish that the institution might supply a fresh incentive and starting-point for native talent, declared the gallery to be open; and, after the proposal of a vote of thanks to his Excellency by the Lord Chancellor as acting chairman of the Board of Governors, the visitors at once proceeded to view the various works of art which already adorn the building.

The first stone of the National Gallery of Ireland was laid by the late Earl of Eglinton, then Lord Lieutenant, on Jan. 25, 1859. The building, which stands on the northern side of Leinster Lawn, possesses, if not an attractive or striking, at least a massive and permanent appearance. It is constructed of grey granite, and there are, for scientific reasons, no windows either in the front, which faces the lawn, or in the end facing Merrion-square. In the upper story, however, the window spaces have been turned into niches, which may ultimately be filled with statues. On each side of these niches are ornamental pilasters, and, resting on them, triangular tops, both of which are of the Corinthian order. The entrance to the galleries is at the eastern end of the building. The vestibule leads into a Nineveh and Egyptian court, through which the visitor passes into the sculpture-gallery, a light and very beautiful court, 112 ft. long and 40 ft. broad, surrounded by a course of Corinthian pillars which support the floor of the upper gallery. The ceiling of this court is paneled, the walls are coloured a silver grey, and the flooring is composed of maroon-coloured encaustic tiling. The grand picture-gallery is reached by a fine double staircase. It is a splendid apartment, 124 feet long by 40 feet broad, and about 45 feet high. In all the walls inclosing this space there is not a single window, all the light during the day being admitted from above by an arched row of windows, forming part of the open roof, extending from end to end of the gallery. The light at night will be procured by means of a monster oblong gaselier of about 2000 jets, suspended from the ceiling. There are, in addition to these larger galleries, four smaller apartments, which will be devoted respectively to the works of modern artists, engravings and photographs, cartoons, and cabinet and water-colour paintings.

CONCERTS.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S second concert of the season, given on Thursday week, included one composition of greater importance than the madrigals and part-songs, to the performance of which his choir is ordinarily devoted. It is true that the cantata, "Oh, sons of art," has been heard at a philharmonic concert; but it is practically unfamiliar to Englishmen. Written for a great festival of the united harmonic societies of Germany and Belgium, held at Cologne in 1846, the composer's means of effect were exceedingly restricted. Only men's voices could be employed, but they were supported by an accompaniment of brass instruments, probably added in order to counteract the tendency to sing flat, which is particularly powerful when the choral body is large. The cantata is admirably written for the voices, and the alternations between the simple quartet and full chorus are frequently most effective; but it cannot be ranked among Mendelssohn's great works, and certainly the composer has in this instance not risen to the high level of his author. We need remind no German student of the poetical beauties of Schiller's "Künstler," the text of the cantata, a poem which for wealth of imagery, philosophical truth, and elevation of purpose, yields to none in the language. Mendelssohn's military overture, one of his very earliest works and as unfamiliar as the cantata, was also performed at this interesting concert. The programme further included the very grand, unaccompanied motet for double choir, "In exitu Israel," by the precocious Samuel Wesley, who composed an oratorio when scarcely freed from the bondage of long clothes; Weelkes's madrigal, "As Vesta was from Tamos Hill descending," one of the finest in existence, remarkable alike for its quaint prettiness and fine contrapuntal effects; Mr. Henry Smart's exceedingly graceful and engaging "Lullaby" part-song; and an Advent anthem from Mr. Leslie's pen, the trumpet accompaniment to it is decidedly effective. Miss Cecilia Westbrooke and Miss Whytock sang the duet from Rossini's "Stabat" remarkably well—two voices so fresh and agreeable in quality are seldom heard together. The instrumental portion of the concert was quite unimportant.

The Sacred Harmonic Society repeated on Monday last the performance of the "Lobgesang" and "Stabat," which had proved so attractive at the preceding concert.

The "commemoration" of days made remarkable by the birth and death of illustrious men seems to be fast becoming a habit with our concert-givers. Antagonistic as the custom is to our English prejudices, now that it has become fashionable it bids fair to be done to death. The anniversary of Mendelssohn's birth has been twice celebrated within the past ten days. Mr. Martin commemorated the day itself, the 3rd of February, by a performance of "Elijah," which, unfortunately, was in many respects unworthy, while the director of the Monday Popular Concerts did the composer more honour and fuller justice by an unexceptionable entertainment, open to no reproach but that of taking place five days too late. The soprano, tenor, and bass parts in "Elijah" were sustained by Mmes. Rudersdorf, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Santley; but Mr. Martin's choir is not yet up to the requirements of Mendelssohn's difficult music, nor is the orchestra sufficiently powerful. The string quintet in B flat, the trio in C minor, and the quartet in E flat were each and all played to absolute perfection at the Mendelssohn Monday Popular Concert, the lovely canzonetta in the last-named piece being rapturously encored. The caprice in E major was introduced, for the first time, by Mr. Hallé, to the frequenters of these concerts, and the vocalists were Miss Banks and Mr. Santley.

Of Mr. Macfarren's lyrical version of Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer," arranged for the composer by Mr. Fitzball, we can only say that it was produced on Thursday evening. An analysis of the work we must reserve till next week. The most successful and the best of the operas with which the Pyne and Harrison company have enriched the English stage, the "Lily of Killarney," was brought out at Berlin, on Monday last, with the completest possible success. "Die Rose von Erin," as it is entitled in Germany, was to have had the advantage of the composer's personal superintendence; but, after Mr. Benedict's departure from England had been put off by telegram times out of number, the work was at length produced at a day's notice.

The mention of music in Germany reminds us that Abert, who is known by his operas "Anna von Landskron" and "König Enzo," has just produced at Stuttgart a symphony, which is spoken of in the highest terms of praise, entitled "Columbus, a 'tone picture' in the form of a symphony." It depicts the various phases of the ever-changing sea. The first movement illustrates the Departure;

the second, the scherzo, labelled "Sailor Jollity"; "Night at Sea" forms the subject of the adagio; and the final movement paints in strong colours the terrors of the tempest and the happy discovery of land. The picturesque instrumental devices are particularly lauded.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The theatres during the last week have been reposing on their successes. The monotony of the week has, however, been broken by an audience given by the Lord Chamberlain to the managers of the London theatres on the subject of the propriety of adopting compulsory measures to members of the corps de ballet, and of enforcing them to steep their skirts in a chemical solution. I deplore the dreadful accidents mentioned in our last two Numbers as much as anyone; but a solemn council of elderly men, held to consider girls' petticoats, is not likely to prevent its repetition. The many petticoats worn by dancers are as inflammable as the muslin skirts worn above them. They require very frequent washing—washing is a labour and an expense. Then they are to be steeped in the solution and dried. Are the girls to incur this extra labour and expense themselves, or are the managers to pay for it? The salaries (?) of the ballet vary. Their rates are 21s., 18s., 15s., 12s. 6d., 10s., 9s., and 6s.—yes, British public, fond of fairies in revolving realms of light, 6s.—one shilling per night. The girls, of whom eight tenths are virtuous and laborious, eke out a scanty livelihood by the needle. They seldom reach home before one in the morning. Are they to sit up all night and wash? or to rise early in the morning to steep? Young ladies are tired after a ball, and other than patrician limbs can feel fatigue. A woman while dancing is burnt before an audience. Are we to abolish dancing? The same arguments would apply to forgery, which would certainly be prevented by the suppression of the dangerous art of writing. Did it not occur to the Lord Chamberlain that the dress of Miss Marie Charles was not set on fire by dancing, but by gas?

The gaslights on the ground are dangerous, and should be stowed away, never to be used again. The young men from the country, willing as they may be to compensate themselves for the Puritanism forced upon them at home, must not be treated in town to a Terpsichorean auto-da-fé.

The only dramatic event of the week has been the fresh cast of "Ixion" at the NEW ROYALTY. Miss Jenny Willmore and Mrs. Felix Rogers having seceded from the theatre, Mr. Stephens appeared, on Monday, as Minerva, and Miss Grace Eaton as Mercury, and were received with great applause by a crowded audience. The triumph of the night, however, was reserved for Miss Teresa Furtado as Ixion. In my résumé of the Christmas entertainments I said that I thought that this young lady had an important future in store for her. She has more than accomplished my prediction. Her action is not only elegant but classical. She delivered the dialogue with admirable verve and esprit; every line, every pun, and every allusion told. Each song received the deserved compliment of an encore, and her dancing took by surprise an audience accustomed to that burlesque dancing which emulates the silver-belt jig and Lancashire clog-hornpipe styles only. It was in the truest sense the poetry of motion. Having made one successful prediction, I will venture on another. Miss Furtado is in possession of talents of too high an order to be limited to burlesque. Among the funny rhymes she uttered she gave tones and glances suggestive of those neglected arts, Tragedy and Comedy. The audience were enraptured, and, not content with the curtain being drawn up to look again on the last scene of the charming extravaganza, insisted on Ixion's reappearance before the footlights. The new young actress, who has been the most important first appearance for years except Miss Bateman, obeyed the call and bowed her thanks.

The Liverpool critics and playgoers appear to have found a dramatic *rara avis*, in the person of a young lady named Milly Palmer, who, though but eighteen years of age and with a limited professional experience, has been for twelve months the leading actress at the Theatre Royal and Amphitheatre. The local papers, in notices of her recent benefit at the former theatre—when she sustained Amy Sedgwick's role of Marie, in John Oxenford's comedy of "The World of Fashion"—speak in rapturous terms of her "prepossessing appearance," "more than common dramatic intelligence," "fervid spirit," and "vocal talent." Brave words these, but possibly deserved.

I regret to say that Mr. Sothorn has met with a severe accident. On Tuesday last he was thrown from his horse and his collar-bone—according to his medical advisers—if not fractured splintered. He may recover, as is announced, in eight or ten days, but it may be months before we again see this admirable actor on the stage.

MR. ARTHUR SKETCHLEY'S NEW ENTERTAINMENT.

"PARIS and Mrs. Brown at the Play" is the title chosen by Mr. Arthur Sketchley for his new entertainment at the Egyptian Hall—Paris, we presume, from the fact of its being always a pleasant place to talk about, and Mrs. Brown at the Play, not only from its popularity but because no audience would permit Mr. Sketchley to leave his platform without indulging them with some of Mrs. B.'s peculiarities of pronunciation, eccentric construction of sentences, and idiosyncratic idioms.

In this respect, as in all others, the visitors to the Egyptian Hall will be entirely gratified, for Mr. Sketchley takes his old friend and her husband, Brown, with him to Paris, and introduces his audience to other tourists—the Griggs family, consisting of Mr. Deputy Griggs, a City celebrity; Mrs. Griggs, who may be described as a sort of Mrs. Brown, with the advantages of reading, writing, a French dictionary, Shakespeare, taste, and the musical glasses; a large number of Misses Griggs; and a Mr. Tobias Titterton, a nervous young gentleman, who lives in constant dread of forcible matrimony at the hands of the eldest Miss Griggs. In the first part of the entertainment Mr. Sketchley sings a capital medley from the facile and funny pen of Mr. H. J. Byron, describing the entertainments of London, and, as Mr. Tobias Titterton, a comic love song, called "Leap Year," written by Mr. Tom Hood. In the second part he gives a charming Neapolitan air, which some people behind us said they did not believe was Neapolitan, but English, for that the word "cheesey" constantly occurred; and an admirable chant called "Griggs in Paris," in which Mr. Gilbert, the author of the song, seems to have exhausted Parisian guide-books, and then invented new ones. The pictorial illustrations—that is, the views of the large panoramas in a massive frame, consist of "The Harbour at Newhaven," "Night at Sea," "Dieppe at Dawn," "A Café," "The Place du Châtelet," "Notre Dame," "The Boulevard Sebastopol," and "The Place de la Concorde." They are, with one exception, from the clever pencil—we should say the brush—of Mr. Matthew Morgan. "Mrs. Brown's Adventures at the Victoria" concluded the entertainment, which was received with great applause by a large and fashionable auditory. Mr. Sketchley's barque is fairly launched, and we can wish him no better wish than the success his admirable talents, delicate distinctions of character, elegant humour, and agreeable delivery deserve.

THE DIRECTION OF THE IMPERIAL OPERA AT VIENNA is having a metallic curtain manufactured, for the purpose of separating the audience part of the theatre from the stage in case a fire should break out.

FIRES IN THEATRES.—Most of the managers of London theatres have had a meeting with the Lord Chamberlain, to consult on the means of preventing accident by fire in the buildings under their direction. All of them deprecated legislation on the subject, and expressed a strong opinion that ordering ballet-girls to steep their dresses in some solution to render them unflammable would be of little service, because the girls would take no notice of the orders. In some cases the managers had provided a solution for the girls, and they had never used it. Mr. Webster complained that letters should have been written to the papers stating that the means of egress from theatres in cases of fire were deficient. In his own theatre (the Adelphi) there were abundant means of exit. Mr. Falconer and other managers made similar observations as to their theatres. Finally, the Lord Chamberlain said he should address a circular to the managers on the subject of lights and exits; and Mr. Webster suggested that it should be in such a form that it could be posted up in the theatres. This has since been done, and a series of regulations drawn up with the view of obviating accidents in theatres, which are to be posted up in all the London houses.

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